

Hafa Adai!

Man found incompetent to stand trial for kidnapping. » **PAGE 6**

Joyner to compete in two int'l pageants as Miss Marianas. » **PAGE 7**

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 102

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY MAY 25, 2015

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75¢

AFTER SITTING IDLE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

Fate of Marpi cemetery still unclear



PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Members of the Color Guard from the Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Department of Corrections prepare to raise the U.S. flag during Friday's National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony at DPS main headquarters in Susupe.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

See story and photos on Page 15

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The long-overdue opening of the Marpi public cemetery is exacerbating the lack of burial sites on Saipan as other public cemeteries are now overcrowded and nearing capacity.

The lack of burial plots has some in the community worried about where to bury their dear departed ones.

Dora (not her real name) said she knows her "father's time is coming" and that she needs to

prepare now for his burial services. Try as she might, however, she couldn't find any available burial plots at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery, which is already overcrowded. When she

See FATE on Page 4

NMC graduates largest class ever

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College graduated its largest class ever in its 35th commencement ceremony last Saturday afternoon at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NMC's class of 2015, comprised of about 167 students, was made up of students graduating with associate's or bachelor's degrees, and sometimes both. About 35 of these students graduated with

a bachelor's in education.

College president Dr. Sharon Hart welcomed the graduates, their friends, and family in her remarks.

Hart told the students that the college "proa" was sometimes shaken, rocked, and challenged during her times as president. But as someone with a couple of decades experience in higher education, she said her times here were her most enjoyable. She encouraged students to launch

See NMC on Page 4

4 years since Luhk sisters disappeared

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Today, Monday, marks the fourth year of the mysterious disappearance of Faloma and Maleina Luhk near a public school bus pavilion in As Teo,

with still no trace of the sisters.

When asked for an update on the case, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero

said yesterday that DPS continues to investigate the Luhk sisters' disappearance.

"While the case has gone cold over the years, we are

» **DPS chief: Every passing day, a day of agony for the sisters, family or both**



Faloma



Maleina

constantly reminding ourselves that someone, somewhere out there knows of what happened to them," Deleon Guerrero said.

He said they are appealing to anyone with information regarding the sisters' disappearance to have the courage to come forward and share it with the authorities.

See LUHK on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Ronie Guevara wins first place at the Bartenders Cocktail Competition.

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LOCAL

Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination unveils two new monuments in Marpi.

» **PAGE 14**



LIFE & STYLE

Sweden beat Russia to win the 60th Eurovision Song Contest.

» **PAGE 20**



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Local

Guevara, Mendoza win Bartenders Cocktail Competition

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

A total of 12 bartenders showed off their talents at the Bartenders Cocktail Competition at the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday. Two divisions made up the "Malibu Rum Challenge": the rookie and the champion division.

As part of the rules, each contestant was called by their number and their names and companies were not revealed until the awarding. They were to use Malibu Rum as their main ingredient and must make five servings of their cocktail within five minutes, all the while entertaining the audience and judges with their flaring and tossing skills.

Criteria for judging were 30 percent for originality, 30 percent for taste, 20 percent for showmanship, and 10 percent each for neatness and audience impact.

For the rookie division, Jeffric Christian D. Mendoza of Hard Rock Café Saipan was named Champion and won Best in Showmanship. Diony Z. Peralta, Victor Reyes of Saipan World Resort and Grace Brooks



Winners of the champion division of the Bartenders Cocktail Competition pose with the judges and Northern Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino, right, at the Taste of the Marianas last Saturday. Holding the tallest trophy is this year's champion, Ronie Guevara of Aqua Resort Club.

of Mariana Resort & Spa won first, second and third places, respectively. Alice Kintoki of Hard Rock Café Saipan took home the Best in Taste award.

The champion division saw past champions competing for another title as the audience became more and more impressed with their talent and various gimmicks.

Ronie Guevara of Aqua Resort Club was hailed Champion and won Best in Taste. Guevara was also the 2012 and 2013 champion. He wasn't able to compete last year.

Eduardo Flores of Club C and Jay Santos of Shark's Bar won second and first runner-up honors, respectively. Santos also won Best in Showmanship for his "under the sea" set up.

Joseph Solmarin of Hard Rock Café Saipan placed third runner up.

"For this competition, I practiced almost every day for a month," Guevara said.



Judges for the competition were Joeten's Bo Palacios, Xerox executive Nola K. Hix, Public Auditor legal counsel Ashley Kost, and United Filipino Organization president Romeo Malasarte.

"Thank you to all the managers and supervisors as well as the supporters who made the event a successful one," said Northern Marianas Bartenders Association president Lito Espino.

Sponsors of the event were the Marianas Visitor Authority, T Galleria, Malibu Rum, Samscorp., TITAN company, Armatech, Coca-Cola, Club C, United Filipino Organization, IT&E, R&J Wines and Spirits, Mariana Resort & Spa, Pacific Island Club, Hard Rock Café, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Shark's Bar, and Grotto Restaurant & Bar.

28 cadets in training for corrections officers

Twenty-eight cadets are currently undergoing training to become corrections officers, according to Department of Corrections Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero.

"It's a three-month-long course," Guerrero said Friday.

He said the cadets are learning various courses such as constitutional law to officers' survival.

Guerrero said the training unit has various police officers, lawyers, medics, and nurses

who are teaching the cadets.

The training kicked off in April and graduation is scheduled by the end of July.

The commissioner said the cadets will augment the current shift of manpower.

"We have enough to maintain the security of the facility," said Guerrero when asked how many officers DOC currently has, adding that he can't reveal the numbers due to security reasons. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan says that farmers and ranchers who suffered losses from Typhoon Dolphin can look to the U.S. Department of Agriculture for help with recovery.

"There are four programs Congress has authorized and USDA runs that can be of immediate assistance to farmers and ranchers," Sablan said. "Information is available online or by contacting Mr. Thomas Camacho at the Farm Service Agency, at 670-234-0896 or thomas.camacho@pb.usda.gov."

The four programs producers are encouraged to check are:

■ **Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance.** Helps to offset production losses for producers, who were signed up in advance, and was part of the Agricultural Act of 2014, written while Sablan was a member of the House Agriculture Committee. (http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/15_mtnap.pdf)

■ **Tree Assistance Program.** Makes funding available to growers of papaya, banana, and other tropical fruit to clean up their orchards and replant. The 2014 Agricultural Act made TAP a permanent disaster program. (http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/tap_2014.pdf)

■ **Livestock Indemnity Program.** Offsets losses of cattle, pigs, and poultry due to adverse weather by providing 75 percent of the value of the livestock. This program was also authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014. (http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/lip_long_fact_sht_2014.pdf)

■ **Farm Loan Program.** Offers a range of low-interest loans to help agricultural producers recover from storm damage. Producers with existing loans should also contact their Farm Services

Agency loan officer, if they expect they will have trouble making their regular loan payments because of the storm. (http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/farmloanchart_current.pdf)

Sablan also reported that the Farm Services Agency has been on the ground on Rota, making site visits to individual farms and inspecting the damage. FSA officials are expected to be on Saipan next week.

"USDA, FEMA, and other agencies have moved quickly to help the Northern Mariana Islands pick up the pieces after Typhoon Dolphin," Sablan said. "It is good to know the federal government is there when we need it." (Office of the Delegate)

month, where three Northern Marianas' beaches won several awards.

At the **Dive and Travel Awards** ceremony on April 4, 2015, the Best Beach Award 1st place went to **Teteto Beach** in Rota, followed by **Managaha** in 2nd place, and **Obyan Beach** in 3rd.

The Marine Diving Fair 2015 was attended by 51,112 visitors over three days. The MVA held an on-stage quiz event to promote Saipan, Tinian and Rota; the quiz winner won a Saipan tour prize. A photo contest for the "Saipan, Tinian



and Rota" award was also held. Joining the MVA in promoting the NMI at the fair were representatives of **Rota Blue Palm, MSC Saipan, and S2 Club Saipan.**

Over 1,400 visitors came to the Northern Marianas to dive in April 2015, including nearly 700 visitors from Japan.

Join us at Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden at 6 p.m. on May 30 at American Memorial Park!



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Japan Marine Diving Fair 2015

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) joined the Marine Diving Fair 2015 in Sunshine City, Ikebukuro, Japan last

Design work still ongoing for 'Flower Island' project

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority disclosed that its "Flower Island" project is still in the works, with the tourism body awaiting the submission of designs on three areas of the island that is being targeted for the project.

During MVA's budget hearing last Thursday, managing director Perry Tenorio told members of the House Ways and Means Committee that the design for the flower island project is still going.

"Our flower island project is pushing through. We're doing the designs and tar-

geting three specific areas. However, it is taking a little longer," Tenorio said.

He did not disclose which three locations are being targeted, but told the committee details will be disclosed later.

Saipan Tribune learned that Garapan's Paseo de Marianas is one of the main areas for the project.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), however, disagreed with the Flower Island project, recommending that MVA focus more on reviving the Japan market.

"Does MVA really need to continue with the Flower Island project? I don't think

it's really necessary to continue with this project. My main concern is the Japan market. Why not put funding toward that instead and revive the market?" Yumul asked.

Tenorio told Yumul that MVA is already deep into the project and it has been in the works for a long time.

"It's a high-ticket item and we believe that rebranding the island as a Flower Island will improve the market. We have discussed this for a really long time so we will still push for it," Tenorio said.

The MVA board disclosed



Tenorio

that some of the plans for the Paseo de Marianas are physical changes, along with installation of flowers and plants like bougainvillea beds or healthier palm trees, among others.

MVA eyes to create more space for events and exhibitions throughout PDM and create greater visibility down the pathway from both ends, he said.

Other proposals include the incorporation of a children's play area near the police office on PDM's west side, fixing the Japanese shrine, building a

permanent stage, and planting flowers in the medians.

Junichi Inada, WIN Landscape Planning and Design managing director and a proposer of the Flower Island project, along with engineers and architects, are the ones working on the project with MVA.

The Flower Island branding concept is a long-term project to rejuvenate and refresh the brand images of Saipan,

Tinian, and Rota into that of a beautiful beach resort destination full of green trees and colorful flowers.

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MITT Final EIS/OEIS now available

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy has completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate potential environmental effects associated with military readiness activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area.

Availability of Final EIS

Govt expends more than \$1M for small business loan program

The CNMI government has expended \$1 million in funding for small businesses in the current quarter.

The CNMI Department of Commerce, through the Commonwealth Development Authority, has deployed the funds as part of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's State Small Business Credit Initiative, a statement from the Governor's Office said.

According to the statement, the funds were used "to attract private lending and investment in small businesses, often by partnering with local financial institutions."

"We've had success working with private lenders and investors to deploy these funds for the benefit of CNMI entrepreneurs and small business owners," said Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

Rabauliman is also the allottee of the U.S. Treasury SSBCI funds.

"Through these funds we've helped small businesses hire new workers, expand their operations and continue to be the

and public involvement

The completion of the Final EIS/OEIS follows several years of research, analysis, and public involvement. The Navy held five public scoping meetings in September 2011 and four public meetings in November 2013 for the Draft EIS/OEIS. The Final EIS/OEIS includes public comments received during the Draft EIS/OEIS review period and

engine that drives our state's economy," he said.

According to the official, the funding resulted in 42 new jobs and \$2.2 million in private investment.

Commerce has an additional \$12.5 million that it will continue to deploy to help small businesses obtain the capital and investment needed to grow, Rabauliman said.

Second tranche

Rabauliman also clarified the U.S. Treasury's decision on the second tranche of funds for the CNMI.

"While we continue to work hard to deploy 80 percent of the first \$4 million tranche as originally set forth for June 30, we are pleased that the U.S. Treasury, during our last SSBCI Conference, decided on the modified language," he said.

He said if a participating state has not qualified for its second disbursement by June 30, 2015, the U.S. Treasury "will terminate the availability of untransferred allocated funds if the participating state has not ex-

Navy responses to those comments.

Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action. The Final EIS/OEIS is available online at www.MITT-EIS.com and at the following public libraries:

■ GUAM: University of Guam, Robert F. Kennedy Me-

pending, obligated or transferred any of its allocated funds during the six months preceding June 30, 2015."

"What the modified language means is that the CNMI SSBCI program is qualified to apply for its second tranche of \$4 million after deploying 80 percent of the first tranche even after the set date of June 30 because we have demonstrated funds deployment of more than \$1 million before and during the past six months. We will continue to do so. We also have loans in the pipeline with our participating banks, and we expect to fulfill the 80 percent requirement sooner than anticipated," Rabauliman said.

The SSBCI was created when President Obama signed into law the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 on Sept. 27, 2010. Through SSBCI, the U.S. Department of the Treasury awarded \$1.5 billion to fund state economic development programs that support small businesses and small manufacturers.

The SSBCI program, introduced to the CNMI in 2012, allocated \$13.2 million to the

memorial Library, Government Documents Room, (671) 735-2315; or Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, (671) 475-4753

■ SAIPAN: Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, (670) 235-7322

■ TINIAN: Tinian Public Library, (670) 433-0504

■ ROTA: Rota Public Library, (670) 532-9451

For questions or additional information, contact the MITT

CNMI to be used for small business loans.

The allocation is divided into three tranches and the first tranche is set to expire this June.

Press secretary Ivan Blanco earlier said the CNMI was able to expend "a little over 20 percent" of the first \$4 million.

Invitation for small firms

The CNMI's SSBCI funding is distributed through the CDA's Collateral Support and Loan Purchase lending programs.

The programs are designed to help small businesses with 750 or fewer employees obtain loans from their local banks for working capital, inventory, real estate or equipment purchases, or lines of credit, including construction loans for qualified projects.

"I encourage entrepreneurs and existing business owners to take advantage of the SSBCI program. That business venture you have been considering but don't have the capital? That's where this program comes in. Come in and see us," said Manny Sablan, executive director of CDA. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

EIS/OEIS project manager at:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific

Attention: MITT EIS/OEIS Project Manager

258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100

Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Proposed Action

The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives, primarily within established military areas of the MITT Study Area. The Proposed Action also includes pierside sonar maintenance and testing alongside Navy piers located in Inner Apra Harbor, and land-based training activities

at existing ranges and other training locations in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The MITT EIS/OEIS is the reevaluation and reauthorization of training and testing activities reviewed in the Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS/OEIS, which the Navy completed with community input in 2010.

The Proposed Action would ensure the Navy and other military services accomplish their mission to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas. **(Joint Region Marianas)**

LUHK

From Page 1

"With every passing day that information is withheld is another day of agony for the Luhk sisters and their family or both," the commissioner said.

Saipan Tribune repeatedly contacted yesterday afternoon Elbert Quitugua, the grandfather of the Luhk sisters, but no one answered their phone.

Every year in the past three years, the families of the Luhk sisters had offered a special Mass at Santa Soledad Church in Kagman during the same day, May 25, when the sisters were last seen.

Last October, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released

computer-generated age progression images of how the sisters would possibly look then, three years after their disappearance.

Then-10-year-old Faloma and 9-year-old Maleina Luhk were last seen on May 25, 2011, near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo.

Their disappearance triggered the most extensive searches of persons in CNMI history, with FBI agents and DPS officers combing a landfill, caves, jungles, villages, abandoned buildings, and other areas on Saipan for several months.

Many civilians also volunteered their time for the searches. A tracking dog from Hawaii was even sent to the island to join the searches.

FATE

From Page 1

inquired about the Marpi public cemetery, she was told that it wasn't open yet.

The Marpi public cemetery is supposed to be a non-denominational public cemetery and has 2,500 double-stack occupancy crypts for a total of 5,000 burials. The cemetery is said to have the potential to provide over 50,000 crypts for 33 years.

Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo, special adviser to the Department of Land and Natural Resources secretary/grants program, said that discussions were made with several agencies about opening the Marpi public cemetery during the time of former DLNR secretary Arnold Palacios.

Teregeyo noted that the DLNR, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Division of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health, the CNMI Veteran's Affairs Office, the Office of the Attorney General, and Department of Public Works were in a committee to help with the opening of the Marpi public cemetery.

"Mainly it is DLNR and DPH-BEH, including Tere-

sita J. Sablan, assistant attorney general, who are helping in the committee with regards to the opening of the cemetery. As far as I know, when I was away from DLNR, they issued out a bid," Teregeyo said.

The Division of Procurement and Supply, meanwhile, has yet to respond whether a contract has been awarded to open the Marpi public cemetery.

"I was part of the process prior to the bidding. We were looking at some of the loopholes because DLNR was tasked with maintaining the cemetery and DPH was tasked with collecting the fees. So we were trying to figure out how we could collaborate on that," she said.

Teregeyo said Sablan is off-island and they couldn't really touch the matter due to other issues that need to be taken cared of.

Teregeyo said that DLNR, DPH, Sablan, and Parks and Recreations will have a meeting in two weeks to discuss the opening of Marpi public cemetery.

The \$2.9-million Marpi public cemetery was made possible by funding from the U.S. Department of the Interior through a capital improvement project grant in early 2011.

DLNR, through Public Law 11-117, has a freehold interest in public land situated in the Marpi area. There are three lots adjacent to the Veteran's Cemetery and surround the Veteran's Cemetery itself that is eyed for the project.

DLNR is tasked with the maintenance of the cemetery, while DPH is tasked with the burial applications and collection fees.

It was learned that a 15-year-old law—Public Law 11-117—designates DPH as the main administrator and is tasked to manage the public cemetery. PL 11-117 puts the responsibility of application requirements, approval, issuance and fee for burial permits. Fees cannot exceed \$50, and may be waived for indigent families and for unclaimed bodies.

DPH can also include conditions on burial permits that are necessary to protect the health of the public. Fees will be charged as well for exhumation.

Teregeyo noted that their upcoming meeting may include talks about fees and regulations but they will still need more meeting to discuss other aspects of the stalled project.

Despite earlier reports of the Marpi public cemetery sharing

electric power from the Veteran's Cemetery, there hasn't been any action toward this yet. Parking spaces are also needed for the cemetery.

According to CNMI Military and Veterans Affairs director Vicente Camacho, the opening of the Marpi public cemetery is in motion and is still being worked at.

"I am not involved, the only involvement is that we share parking space, but all that is needed is to just respect the place and be kept clean and its all about maintenance," Camacho said.

"Parking area won't be an issue at all, [as we're] more than ready to share parking. The Marpi public cemetery goes around the Veteran's Cemetery, and there is still no sign up, but once it is all good and ready they will have to indicate that there is a public cemetery so there wouldn't be any confusion between the Veteran's [Cemetery] and the public cemetery," he added.

In previous months, Borja Funeral Homes has proposed to build a crematorium in an effort to alleviate the dearth of burial plots. However, the proposal to locate the crematorium in Chalan Kanoa has met some criticism.

NMC

From Page 1

the sails of their proa "full speed ahead" in their future endeavors.

"As you leave this institution, know that you will joining a prestigious network of NMC alumni who are working in our community and in other parts of the world as business professional, educators, health providers, natural resource managers, community leaders, researchers, and officers of the law...We look forward to hearing great things about you and your explorations," said Hart and NMC board chair Juan T. Lizama in their joint message.

Keynote speaker Shirley Sablan shared lessons from "life-changing" experiences as recipient of the Maga-haga Award and the 2014 First Hawaiian Bank *Guam Business Magazine* Businesswomen of the Year.

Sablan noted some "insecurities" about giving the keynote speech that day, but otherwise rose to the task with a message of confidence and taking up life's challenges. She urged students not to get too caught up in the "rat race" or the economic climb and give back and become players

in their community.

To celebrate their top students, the college also presented "Academic Excellence Awards" and "Student Leadership Awards."

Jimin Cheon, with an associate in liberal arts degree, and Hyemin Lee, with her associate degree in hospitality management, won the "Academic Excellence" awards.

For the "Student Leadership Award," the college presented this to Guadalupe Adelbai Camacho, who graduated with an associate of arts degree with an emphasis in education, and Jolly Ann Cruz, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in education, and an associate's degree in natural resource management.

The college graduation was witnessed by a packed crowd of families, friends, and local legislators, mayors, as well as Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

The college's vision is to serve as the "engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality in the Commonwealth." Last Saturday's largest graduating class comes nearly a year after earning initial accreditation from the WASC Senior Commission last July 2014.

CNMI restoration efforts complete

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The last 1 percent of Rota's power services went back up on Thursday, after Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crews completed power restoration efforts in the wake of Typhoon Dolphin last week.

CUC public information officer Brad Ruszala told *Saipan Tribune* Friday morning that CUC restored the remaining power on Rota on Thursday night.

Rota was hardest hit by the typhoon. CUC sent a four-man line crew to Rota to assist res-

toration efforts. Typhoon Dolphin left the island with downed lines, snapped poles, and without power.

CUC Rota deputy director Charles Manglona said Thursday that CUC line crews continue to repair minor damage to the transmission system, including tensioning loose power transmission lines and straightening leaning power poles.

Manglona said the interisland line crews worked to repair some of the damaged power pole hardware and accessories until the Saipan line crews returned home Friday.

"Without their help, power restoration would have taken longer to accomplish. It is good that we completed the major repair in less than a week. CUC line crews work tirelessly day and night, carrying out tasks to complete the restoration project in a timely manner," he said.

Water service to customers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota was restored soon after the typhoon.

CUC Power Division manager Gary Camacho earlier said there was very little damage to the island's main feeders or high voltage system.

The CUC Call Center on Saipan received 3,992 calls from customers before, during, and after the typhoon.

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Kia Sedona LX retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.

Man found incompetent to stand trial for kidnapping

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed Friday the case against a man who was arrested in 2010 for allegedly kidnapping a 5-year-old girl and taking her to a jungle where he choked her.

Camacho dismissed the case against Steven A. Hocog, 40, without prejudice after the defense and the prosecution agreed to dismiss the matter.

Dismissed without prejudice means the prosecution can refile the matter in the future.

Assistant attorney general Shannon R. Foley and defense counsel Samuel Mok agreed that based on the psychiatric evaluation results, Hocog is not

currently competent to stand trial and is unlikely to regain his competency through rehabilitation or treatment.

In dismissing the case, Camacho also vacated any pretrial conditions imposed on Hocog.

Camacho said any order of conditional release does not stop future civil commitment proceedings.

Dr. Martin Blinder evaluated Hocog on July 10, 2014, and reported that the defendant "lacks the mental capacity to follow the contours of the legal road ahead, comprehend a judicial process, grasp the charges and its relationship to possible penalties, or collaborate with counsel in the preparation of a defense."

Blinder also reported that "no purpose would be served in providing [Hocog] psychiatric care in the hopes of restoring competency in that even the most effective psychiatric treatment cannot restore that which was not there in the first place."

The government then hired Dr. Michael Kim as an independent expert to also conduct a psychiatric evaluation of Hocog.

Kim's report determined that Hocog "does not have the competence to stand trial and be proceeded against." Kim concluded that Hocog is presently suffering from a significant mental defect that would render him incompetent to stand trial.

Kim further indicated that

Hocog "is currently not receiving any mental health care and would not benefit from such care at this time."

He said any efforts to rehabilitate Hocog would be fruitless, as his condition is a chronic pervasive mental defect that is very unlikely to improve despite any treatment.

Hocog had been charged with kidnapping, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

According to the prosecution, Hocog found the girl at Rio Laundry in Kagman and took her to the jungle on March 10, 2010. In the jungle, Hocog allegedly choked the girl but she managed to fight him off and escaped. She sustained some scratches.

Police detective Melissa H. Bauleong stated in her report that responding officers reviewed the surveillance camera's footage at Rio-II Poker & Laundry that led to the identification and arrest of Hocog.

Hocog was seen hanging around the laundry area. As the victim's parents left the laundromat, police said Hocog went to the laundry area and sat on a bench next to where the girl was sitting.

Saipan residents urged to take part in Liberation Day revelry

By **JAYSON CAMACHO**
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REPORTER

Skywalker Communications Group and the Saipan Mayor's Office are urging the community to take part in what is being described as a "bigger, better, and modernized" Liberation Day festivities.

The Hong Kong-based creative firm that will be handling this year's 70th Liberation Day met with the media in a briefing last week in a bid to create more excitement among residents and stir them to join the Liberation Day festivities that will run from June 27 to Aug. 16 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Skywalker representatives outlined plans that aim to bring everyone together, modernizing the Liberation Day festivities and possibly promoting it in tourism markets while keeping its traditions.

Rides, activities, newer booths, fireworks, and the traditional parade will be the main features of the festivities.

Skywalker's Rose Ada-Hocog noted that everything is still being worked but she declined to provide details as to where the rides would come from and which companies they would collaborate with, among others.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said they've already identified some Liberation Queen

candidates but the search for more candidates continue.

One of the Liberation Day candidates, Zolenska Yaroite-mal, was present during the presentation of the Liberation Day festivities. Other candidates were not present at the moment.

The 2015 Liberation Day Royal Court contestant criteria is for 15- to 25-year-old females, not married, has no children, a CNMI resident for at least six months, and of good moral and ethical character. There aren't any limitations on the number of participants for the contest. Woman 15 to 25 years of age are invited to sign up for this year's royal court.

Each candidate may have individual sponsors to assist with the costs of competing and each candidate will have the ability to sell Liberation Day raffle tickets. Ten percent of each of the candidates' total fundraising proceeds will go to the candidate.

This year, one of the region's leading independent auditing firms, Burger Comer Magliari LLC, will verify and count the official Liberation Day raffle tickets.

Application forms for the 2015 Liberation Day Royal Court are available at the Saipan Mayor's Office or via email at liberationcnmi@gmail.com. Deadline to apply is on Friday, May 15, 2015.

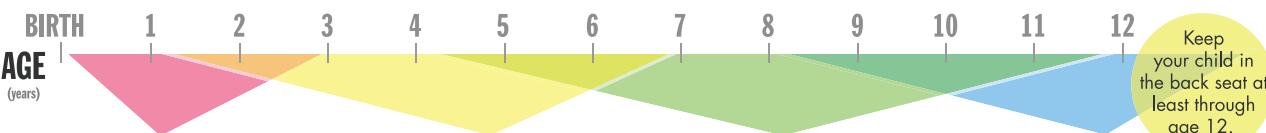
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- Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.



REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats: Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing. Convertible and 3-in-1 car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness.

BOOSTER SEAT

Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

SEATBELT

Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snug across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

DESCRIPTION (RESTRAINT TYPE)

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A **FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT** has a harness and tether that limits your child's forward movement during a crash.

A **BOOSTER SEAT** positions the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body.

A **SEAT BELT** should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest to restrain the child safely in a crash. It should not rest on the stomach area or across the neck.



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Notice of Availability of the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final Environmental Impact Statement/ Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS)



Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] Regulations [40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508]) and in accordance with Executive Order 12114, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Final EIS/OEIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with military training and testing activities within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Study Area. The MITT EIS/OEIS is the reevaluation and reauthorization of training and testing activities reviewed in the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC) EIS/OEIS, which the Navy completed with community input in 2010.

Proposed Action: The Navy proposes to conduct training and testing activities, which may include the use of active sonar and explosives, in the MITT Study Area. The Proposed Action also includes pierside sonar maintenance and testing alongside Navy piers located in Inner Apra Harbor, and land-based training activities at existing ranges and other training locations on Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the Navy and other military services accomplish their mission to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

Public Involvement: The completion of the Final EIS/OEIS follows several years of research, analysis and public involvement. The Navy held five public scoping meetings in September 2011 and four public meetings in November 2013 for the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The Final EIS/OEIS includes public comments received during the Draft EIS/OEIS review period and Navy responses to those comments. Regulations provide for a 30-day wait period after the Final EIS/OEIS is published before the Navy may take final action.

The Final EIS/OEIS is available online at www.MITT-EIS.com and at the following public libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library and Rota Public Library.

For More Information: Visit the project website at www.MITT-EIS.com or contact:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific, Attention: MITT EIS/OEIS Project Manager, 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100, Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134

Joyner to compete in two int'l pageants as Miss Marianas 2015

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

After months of grueling preparations and practice, the night to crown the new queen of the Marianas came vintage Hollywood-style as the Miss Marianas 2015 was held at Regency Saipan's Sandcastle Theater last Thursday.

Of the six lovely ladies who joined this year's restaging of the island's beauty pageant, 20-year-old Jian Joyner took home the crown. She also won the Stellar Star, Best in National Costume, and Best in Swimsuit awards.

Dana Manglona, who came in second place, won the Best in Evening Gown and Miss Photogenic awards.

"Win or lose, I still have that crown of mine to be an inspiration to all," Manglona said.

Joanna Navarro made it to the Top 3. Daysia San Nicolas won the Texters' Choice award while Irene Torres was named Miss Friendship.

Women's affairs

Although she seemed initially flustered by the question in the final Q&A portion of the pageant, Joyner retained her composure and was able to bounce back.

The final question—which was asked of the Top 3 candidates—asked their opinion on the statement: "The CNMI Women's Affairs Office is mandated by our CNMI constitution and women make up the largest portion of our population. Yet it is one of the first programs cut when public funds are low. Give us, the CNMI taxpayers, a good reason why the Women's Affairs Office and its programs should be fully funded."

In her response, Joyner said that women nowadays are as

capable as men and that women should be given any opportunity to do what they can.

"I was just completely blank. I'm just so happy that I won," Joyner later said after her coronation.

Aside from the crown, trophy, sash, flowers, cash and other various gift prizes, Joyner as Miss Marianas 2015 will be competing in the 2015 Miss Earth and the 2015 Miss International pageants.

She also has an opportunity to create and implement a community project under her name and with the assistance of Stellar Marianas.

"My platform is to define what it means to be a Marianas woman and I think that I should do more activities with young women," said Joyner when asked about what possible program she will implement.

"We're excited; it's going to be a great year. We have a lot to prepare for the two international competitions and I know that she's going to be very active in the community and we'll help her promote her platform," Stellar Marianas president Laila Boyer said.

Judges of this year's pageant were IT&E CEO John Compton, Miss NMI Universe '98 Helene Manning, and Triple J Motors sales associate Merci Sablan.

40 years

This year was special to the Stellar Marianas as they celebrate 40 years. To mark this milestone, they invited past Miss Marianas winners to be part of the event.

The three-hour program included various numbers from guest performers such as Jason Hudy, Nikita Mendiola, 2014 Miss Marianas Teen Gianna Camacho, and Sakura Imapa.



FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA

Dressed in her white evening gown, Jian Joyner, third from left, was crowned Miss Marianas 2015 at the Hyatt's Sandcastle Theater last Thursday. Standing with her are this year's other contestants, from left, Riana McCale, first runner up Dana Manglona, Joanna Navarro, Daysia San Nicolas, and Irene Torres.



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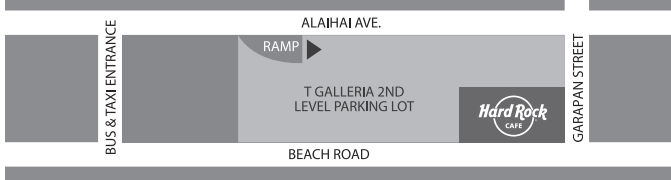
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Extended session fails to resolve concerns on House rules

By JOEL PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A session that dragged on for more than four hours failed to resolve several longstanding

concerns on the House of Representative rules for the CNMI's 19th Legislature.

During a Friday session on Capital Hill, lawmakers debated, held discussions—and even

argued—over several items in the proposed House rules.

The concerns included the proposal to increase the number of members of certain committees by combining existing

committees, the “shared” leadership, and how to go about its transition, and the suspension of a three-fourths vote required to pass a resolution, among others.

One sticking point is that the

current House speaker will step down after a year, and the vice speaker will succeed him. Minority lawmakers in previous sessions maintained that an election of the next House speaker is the right direction to take.

In short, there were not enough votes to pass House Resolution 19-5, which contained the House rules.

As with previous sessions, the majority bloc was not able to muster three-fourths of the votes needed to pass the resolution, with the minority bloc refusing to budge.

HR 19-5 was introduced by Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), the House floor leader and head of an ad hoc committee reviewing the House rules.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), leader of the minority bloc, asked for an explanation on several amendments of the House rules.

For Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), there is no need to tackle the amendments one by one and that all of the comments of the other lawmakers have already been noted by the ad hoc committee.

Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), a member of the minority bloc, took to social media to vent his frustration.

“Might as well burn the rule book of the House of Representatives if all the leadership wants

to do is suspend the rules all the damn time. Today, they suspended rule 16 section 1, which requires a resolution to amend or repeal House rules to appear for one legislative day and a 3/4 vote for adoption. We had an agreement that the leadership reneged on. They did a bait and switch in terms on what was on calendar and a substitute that was later submitted. It was not even an urgent or an emergency situation,” said Villagomez on his FaceBook page. “I wanted to post this because people were wondering what was going on and why we stayed so late.”

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) said after the session that the House rules resolution has been a long-standing issue and should have been resolved by now.

For Deleon Guerrero, the back-and-forth discussions were also par for the course for CNMI lawmakers. He said the session was mild compared to previous sessions in past legislatures where some lawmakers nearly came to blows and became physical.

At the end of the day, it will always be about numbers, he said.

Perhaps one of the more interesting sound bites during the session was the comment of Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) who quipped, “If you can’t beat them, join them.”

SIS graduates largest class



MINORI YOSHIDA
Valedictorian



JEE HYUN LEE
Valedictorian



VICTORIA CHENTSOVA
Salutatorian

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Saipan International School graduated what headmaster Tim Bray called an “eclectic” bunch of high school students in a ceremony last Friday at the Saipan World Resort.

SIS’ senior class of 2015, made of about 29 students, was also their largest in its history.

SIS awarded two valedictorians, Minori Yoshida and Jee Hyun Lee. Yoshida heads to Columbia University.

Victoria Chentsova was salutatorian. She heads to Williams College.

Bray wished the students the success and happiness in the things they pursue.

“They are a very interesting group of people, they have their own personality as a class. I just hope for the best for them. They are all going off to college so I wish them the best success,” he said.

Russian, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean students, among others, made up SIS’ graduating class. The ceremony at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort was packed with friends and family.

Do those who
courageously gave their lives...
and those who still serve to
protect our freedom, we salute you.

Have a safe and meaningful
Memorial Day!

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Saipan Tribune
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Northern Marianas wins major World Travel Fair award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota won the Best Island Tour Destination award during the World Travel Fair Awards in Shanghai on May 6, 2015.

The Northern Marianas was recognized as the Best Island Tour Destination at the World Travel Fair Awards 2015 this month in Shanghai, China. The Marianas Visitors Authority joined hundreds of other travel trade organizations, NTOs and the public at the event.

The World Travel Fair judges select and award "the best travel destinations, the best hotels, the best airlines, the best travel routes and the best tourism service" to destinations and services noted to be delivering high quality products to the tourism industry and consumers.

"We're very happy to receive this recognition for Best Is-

land Tour Destination from the World Travel Fair experts," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Being recognized as outstanding at one of the biggest travel shows in Asia shows us we are on the right track by improving our islands' tourism attractions. It helps potential visitors choose between a number of competing destinations and will likely bring an even bigger surge of arrivals from Mainland China to the Northern Mariana Islands," said Bateman.

The selection was made by an advisory board composed of experts from the government, the tourism industry, travel sites, and travel media. (MVA)

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy sweet 16th to Miss Shawna Mauricio! May you enjoy your special day and continue to shine bright like a diamond. We love you bonita. Greetings come from the family!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday, Taylor Jade! You are one of the greatest blessings ever given to us and may you continue to shine bright because we know you will. Hope you enjoy your special day. Love, Mommy, Daddy, Ando, and Hailey!

This Memorial Day,
we recognize and salute all
who have paid the ultimate sacrifice
in defense of our freedom.

We will never forget.

We wish everyone
a healthy and safe
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**Memorial Day
2015**

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we salute the men and
women who served to
protect our country!

From the management and staff of



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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 102Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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EDITORIAL

Airbag threat: The key safety device must be replaced ASAP

The following editorial appeared in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on Friday, May 22:

It's been six years since a Virginia woman bled to death in front of her children after the airbag in her Honda Accord exploded, sending shards of metal into her neck and chest. Seven months earlier, an 18-year-old cheerleader in California died the same way after a fender-bender in a school parking lot.

Despite these and four other deaths, defective Takata airbags remain curled in the steering wheels of some 34 million American cars, putting 1 in 7 U.S. drivers at risk of death or serious injury. The record-breaking recall announced Tuesday will fix the problem, but at an infuriatingly slow pace. The Tokyo-based Takata Corp. must deliver replacements before more lives are lost.

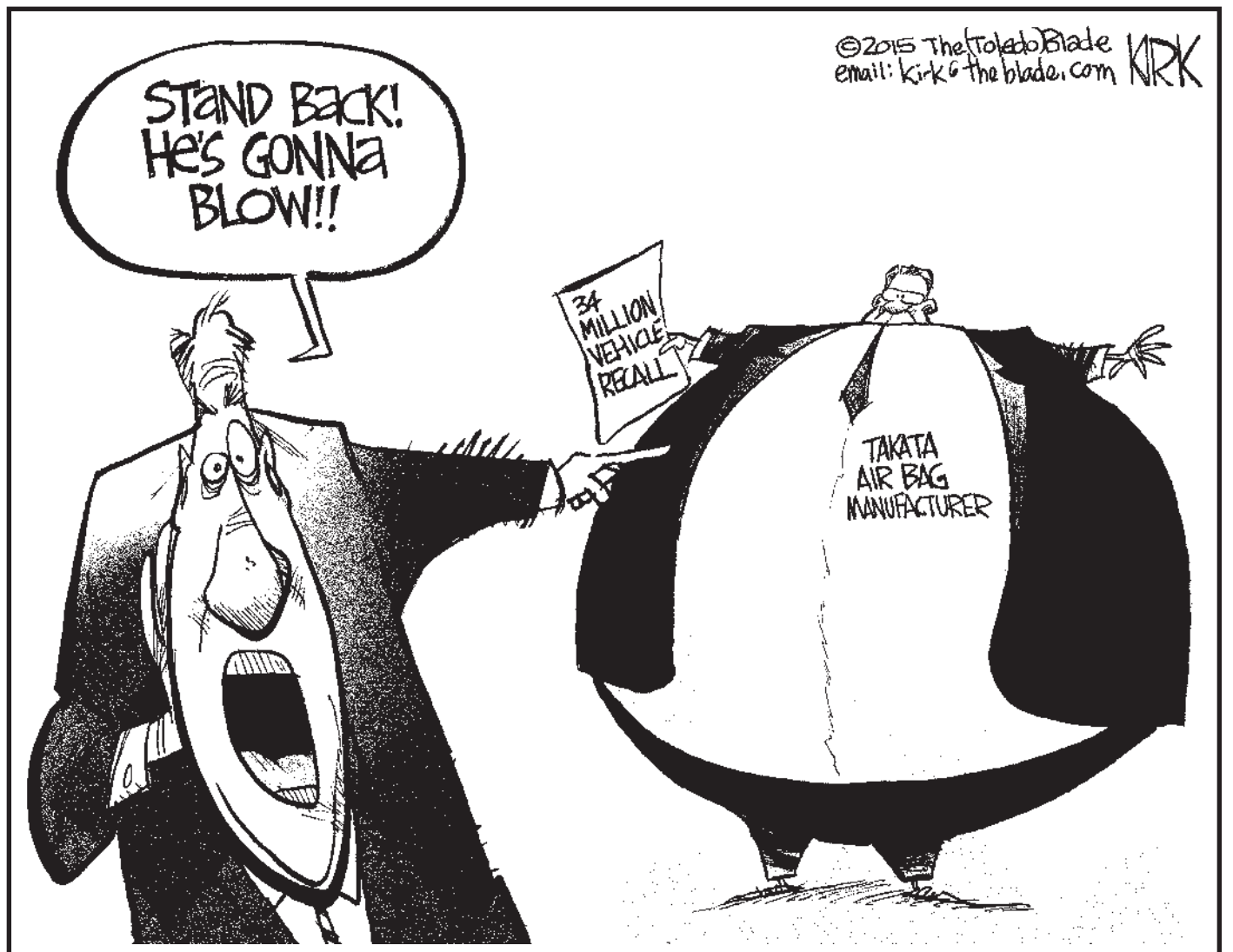
The safety of its airbags has been in question for 15 years, but Takata admitted culpability only under the duress of a \$14,000-a-day fine levied by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in February. The NHTSA was fed up with the Japanese manufacturer's insufficient answers to questions about the horrific deaths and more than 100 injuries. It also has an aggressive new director, Mark Rosekind, who took over the agency in December.

The expanded recall affects 11 automakers, including Ford, General Motors and Fiat Chrysler. Because the affected parts seem to corrode in humid conditions, car owners in the South will have first priority while a backlog exists. (To find out if your car is affected, enter your vehicle identification number at www.safercar.gov. But check back in a few weeks, since federal transportation officials say the numbers may grow.)

Meanwhile, there's no reason the nation should hold its breath and hope for the best. Toyota recommends temporarily disabling airbags in affected cars, and both Toyota and General Motors say no passengers should sit in the front until the car is fixed. Consumer Reports, meanwhile, has urged Takata to issue loaner cars or vouchers for rental cars.

Toyota's move to disable airbags temporarily is controversial, since airbags save about 2,000 lives a year. For now, that's small comfort to nervous drivers, who have more reason than ever to be careful out there.

(c) 2015 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Memorial Day

The last Monday in May is Memorial Day, coming after the Pentecost of Christians and *Shavuot* of the Jews. The legal day commemorates the lives lost in the military while in the line of duty, starting with Confederate and Union soldiers during the Civil War. Memorial Day, considered the first day of summer ending on Labor Day, is not to be confused with Veterans' Day that honors those who served the military.

In the Christian calendar, Pentecost celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the 12 Apostles and Jesus' followers, metaphorically translated as the affirmation of earthly life no longer alien to the "will of God," or, to the Way Life Is, *aka* the "birthday of the Church."

Shavuot of the Jewish holiday celebrates the giving of the Laws to Moses in Sinai, so there is no excuse for not living the wholeness (holiness) of life, for one can now "go by the book." It caps the Passover that begins with the Seder Feast and the eating of the unleavened bread, *matzah*.

The word "Pentecost" derives from the 50 days between Easter to the descent of the Holy Spirit, 10 days after Jesus' ascension into heaven, which is also the end of the Jewish Passover pegged at the symbolic number of 40.

Not too distant is the Muslim *Ramadan* or *Ramazan* when the faithful of Ibrahim (Abraham) takes on the summer heat of the desert by physically slowing down on daylight activities and purifying the soul in fasting, performing acts of charity and self-sacrifice exemplified by the *Eid-al-Adha's* memory of Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son like a lamb on an open fire.

Earlier after the full moon also in the spring, Hindus observe *Holi* that disregards social norms and indulge in merrymaking, attending bonfires and spraying kin with colored powders and water affirming the bonds of friendship and community.

Native Americans perform at midsummer the *Sun Dance* and the circle of life and death, which the Buddhists' *Vesak* of the lunisolar calendar observes as the birth and death of "Buddha" (that book-ends enlightenment), a role that rededicates to the dharma and the eightfold path. The faithful scoop water to "wash" a figurine of the baby Buddha as a symbol.

The metaphor on the concrete milieu of these religious observances is dismissible. But the Book of Acts of the Apostles' note on its significance is quite explicit: "I will pour out my spirit upon every sort of flesh, and your sons and your daughters will prophesy and your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams." The young forecasts and plans the future with vision assured by the guidance of dreams.

We are more than a century beyond just revering the fallen in the old American conflict in the Civil War. Celebrating African-American slaves who died fighting for emancipation marked the

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



death of soldiers as well. It is now 2015 and recalling of events is to recognize life's reality: that one remembers where one came from in order to courageously determine where one is going!

There are those among us who have grown comfortable with what had transpired before. Like the "written word" in the desert, reliance on the past is at a premium. Distances between oases in the desert after all do not lend itself to easy charting of the shifting sand dunes as life by its very nature changes, thus the value of memory. Some dub the direction of change as evolution.

We are not unsympathetic to those who insist that we stick with the "tried and true" against the untested and new, and Memorial Day gets the accent on the first. It signals the onset of summer. Life, nonetheless, surprises us, sometimes pleasantly and other times, pushing the difficult side, both full of wonders.

The Scots transformed the solstices and equinoxes as quarter days used to mark the times when real estate rentals and indebtedness were settled in the Middle Ages. The seventh Sunday after Pentecost is when newly baptized faithful in white garbs (Whit Sunday) are sent out to start life anew.

The accent on today is not only on memory but also on the implication that one can build on the shoulders of the old. What newness presides over the CNMI is the question that begs our attention. E.g., marijuana legalization simply decriminalizes a widespread practice, so is same-sex unions, the subject of the recent AG Cup speeches.

The influx of Chinese visitors, Korean money, Japanese technology and Filipino CWs dominates the CNMI landscape. Ownership of land remains in Chamolinian hands but intermarriages with the new arrivals have diffused the "indigene" formula on blood to determine ownership as prescribed by the Constitution.

Meanwhile, the military flexes its muscles, pleasantly PR'd, though still on the ethos of "*yours is not to ask why, only to do or die*" now applied to the use of the isles' strategic military value vs China. Local self-interest is hardly homogenous; varied intents and interests prove divisive.

The challenge is participation not only in the economic benefits of development but in the political decision-making. May that be the conversation in the family BBQ by the lagoon this Memorial Day!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Navy data omissions and data inadequacies regarding the MITT

In response to the well-written May 22, 2015, article by Dennis B. Chan, titled “MITT findings vulnerable to lawsuit,” it is also noteworthy and important to convey the fact that the Navy, in its request to seek a letter of authorization seeking waiver from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to increase incidental takings of marine mammals, is replete with omissions of historical data to directly support just how likely

A drinker vs smoker reality check

The reality of drinking when compared to smoking is truly a joke and it makes me wonder how we, the human race, got it so wrong to let power, money and politics overrule humanity and nature! But what is even worse is that now that we know how stupid it was to criminalize marijuana, there is still a small handful of people who don’t get it and think marijuana should still be illegal for whatever reason. We can’t make laws that will be sufficient to control morality as education at home, school and church are the only true countermeasures to eliminating our moral inefficiencies. But this letter is mostly for laughs to the handful of people who are still in doubt about marijuana but yet approve and even drink alcohol.

■ Drinkers think they know everything in the world, especially when they are drunk but the reality is they often don’t make sense and even sound stupid. But smokers are great analytical listeners and thinkers. FYI, marijuana puts your brain in an “alpha state” (open-ended), which is needed for creativity and analogy purposes. A person who is “stoned” is really a person fixated and caught up in their own thought process but it’s just not being focused to serve a purpose other than being high. To make it simple, marijuana helps you to be happy, to think and to be creative and productive when used properly while drinking makes you act stupid.

■ Drinkers run stop signs but smokers sit there waiting for the stop sign to turn green figuratively being safe and looking both ways.

■ Drinkers are often belligerent (loudmouthed, confrontational, and ugly) but smokers are trying to munch on something, being friendly, laughing, and having fun!

■ Drinkers, especially drunks, speed and are all over the road and even on the wrong side of the road but smokers drive slow and straight to make sure they get to where they are going. In the big cities drinkers get DUI and speeding tickets but smokers get tickets for going too slow and obstructing traffic!

■ Drinkers sometimes can’t remember who they were with or what they did last night but smokers can remember everything and how much they enjoyed themselves!

■ Drinkers don’t have an appetite and can put away cases of beer in one sit-down but a smoker only needs one or two good cigarettes and they are ready to have fun all evening while raiding the rice pot!

■ Drinkers are susceptible to all kinds of illnesses and even the destruction of vital organs but smokers are consuming a natural healing and pain relieving herb that can’t be attributed to any illness or any deaths! Drunks are killing themselves while smokers are staying healthy and pain free!

The people who have safety sensitive jobs like police officers, pilots, etc., and/or are a federally funded employee, will still be forced to drink as their only option when off-duty even though there are tests now for “active” marijuana in your system because it’s against federal law! However, I do hope this reality check will convince doubters to become full-fledged members of the new and reformed society for legalization as future advertisement and promotions will surely one day say, “SMOKE - Don’t DRINK”!

The first law of morality in mankind’s state of nature for using any substance or herb that alters your state of mind is to use it in moderation for a purpose and don’t let it use you to just walk around high all day! This is why we must learn how to live with marijuana in our society as people need to be taught about marijuana use and our youth need to be educated so they will know that their brain is still developing and not ready to handle mind-altering substances. Education will be our moral salvation, not legislating laws for morality! “*Knowledge is the true wisdom and power for life on earth and it’s the only currency for our universe*” (History Channel). I hope this is not too heavy or deep for my critics to understand as they keep playing the role of the signifying monkey trying to appear smarter when the reality is they are you-know-what!

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

the over 17,000 hours of active sonar training each year and the over 12,000 underwater explosion events to be performed each year will devastate marine mammal and undersea ecosystems through the Marianas Islands region. This is unacceptable and constitutes one of several reasons why NOAA should deny the Navy’s request for waiver.

Instead, the Navy in its request to NOAA last year, piled on reams of theoretical examples of how this military service branch guesses marine mammals may or may not become injured or killed. There is no scientific data contained in the report to draw conclusions that Navy claims for additional training are reasonable, justifiable, or safe to the undersea environment nor does the Navy provide any information on how they have effectively self-enforced their undersea training iterations in the past to in fact protect or prevent marine mammal harm, injury or death. There is not one example to reference as direct evidence to support Navy claims.

The Navy fails to spell out for the American general public

We do want to go back to Pagan

This is a response to a Mr. Jim Brooks, who responded on Facebook regarding the Los Angeles Times article about Pagan. Mr. Brooks wrote: “How can the island of Pagan oppose it? No one lives there.” Here was my response:

Dear Mr. Brooks: I hope you read this. Thank you for this opportunity to update you and share these accurate information about Pagan. I don’t know if you’ve ever been to Pagan or how familiar you are with my childhood island home, but please allow me to just share these few thoughts with you.

I know from personal knowledge that members of families who have deep-rooted ties to Pagan have never completely left the Island. Some of these people I am talking about are my own nieces and nephews and their parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. They still live there and come back and forth to Saipan. This is nothing unusual. Our folks from Rota and Tinian do the same thing—where they split their time living on their respective home islands and have a home here on Saipan as well.

how many kinds and levels of contingency training will be performed throughout the undersea domain and omits any mention of how Mariana Islands residents feel about these undersea training activities that will damage or kill marine mammals, some of which are Endangered Species Act listed. The recent court ruling in Hawaii related to the Hawaii - Southern California Training and Testing Training Study Area, will open up the floodgates to future litigation against the Navy. All these developments signal that our nation’s Navy may not have the appropriate anti-submarine warfare capabilities to successfully detect and track Chinese or Russian subs, which are known to be relatively quieter because they are diesel powered. If our nation had the right kinds of anti-submarine capabilities, why would we need so much active sonar and undersea explosion training and testing to be performed throughout the Pacific?

Rick Perez
Hanover, NH

The former residents want to return home to Pagan to resettle there. How do I know this? Because in 1998, the former residents voted me as president of an organization called United Northern Islanders Association, formed to assist them to return home to ae you weren’t at home at the time someone else tried to claim your home and property, despite years of efforts to return home, does not mean that you have no right to speak up against what the military wants to do or has done to your home and property—does it? Just try for a moment—no matter how far-fetched or ridiculous you may think this scenario may be—to place yourself in our shoes. Now, how does that feel?

Please help us save our inhabited island homes of Pagan and Tinian from destruction. God bless you and your family.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Former and future resident of Pagan

LITERARY NOOK

There’s music in the math

By JOSEPH ‘PEPE BATBON’ CONNOLLY
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Here is a trio of space sonnets to honor Nicolaus Copernicus (who figured out the Earth revolved around the sun) and passed away 472 years ago on May 24, 1543. The First Cosmic Convention Concert was held 2015 million light years away in an unnamed elliptical galaxy. I attended by way of a wormhole that opened up near Naftan Rock where I currently serve as self-appointed mayor and professor of the Humor Department at the University of Naftan Rock. The three-day concert was a Big Bang for millions of attendees. Some watched on satellite screens stationed in geosynchronous orbit around the planet Esrevinu, which hosted the event. A pleasant journey through the cosmos on bent space time was had by all.

A few notes about the performing artists. None referenced *Star Trek* or *Star Wars*. Many different genres of music were performed. Several groups used the sound of cosmic radiation as part of their percussion loops. See if you can find the groups that: 1. Took the name of a children’s book on space; 2. The title of a Pink Floyd song; and 3. The name of an American jazz group still performing in the Big Easy. Each group’s name has some reference to cosmology or cosmologists relevant in the 21st Century, the exception being old B&W TV space shows. I’m hoping some of the terms in the groups’ names will send you to books and websites to learn about the incredible and large cosmos where we live. Look up the universe awaits.

“Listen dear readers with your eyes and ears
And you shall hear the music of the spheres
Cosmic cha cha for millions of light years
Use your imagination to shift mental gears.”
—Pepe Batbon, space cadet

THE FIRST COSMIC CONVENTION CONCERT
(the bands you missed on gravity-free Friday)

- Red Shift and the Sonic Boomers
- Martin Marietta and the Boeing Boeings
- General Relativity and the Theorists
- The Cosmic Cupcakes

- Neut Rino and the Boson Particles
- Professor Astro Cat’s Frontiers of Space
- Simon L. Taneous and the Super Novas
- Todd O’Globo & the Globular Clusters
- Doctor Dud and the Dwarf Star Thuds
- Red Giant and the Yellow Suns
- Lead Boots and the Lunar Landers
- The Duke of Drones with the Martian Rovers
- Plutocrats Redux and the Planetoids
- Singularity & the Thresholds

COSMIC CONVENTION CONCERT II
(and more bands you missed on Saturn’s Day)

- Galileo and the Galaxy Girls
- The Milky Wayvers
- Sailor Star and the Hawk Kings
- The Oristas of Everything
- Orbit Elliptico & the Copernicans
- Asteroid and the Meteorites
- Sunny Saturn and the Ringers
- Tobor and the 8th Dimension Dudes
- Iggy Imploder and the Big Bangers
- Astral Project - Alive and On the Inside
- Heavy Waters and the Light Years
- Gravitas with Ambient Pressure
- Dark Matter and the Right Stuff
- Dirk Energy and the Unknown

COSMIC CONVENTION CONCERT III
(closing the concert stage on the day of the Sun)

- The Doppler Gangers
- Scrunch Up the Photons
- Quirk Quark and the Fibonacci Storks
- Trans Planckian and the Timestoppers
- Kepler’s Katzenjammer Kids
- Tycho Brahe & the Silver Nose String Band
- Feynman’s Future Four
- The Jetson’s Jug Band
- My Favorite Martian Music Band
- Interstellar Overdrive
- Buck Rogers Photon Energy Band
- Atomicritus and the Anti Particles
- Fang Lizhi and the Celestial Dragons
- Hubble’s See Farther Sextet

Farm Service Agency to meet with NMI farmers

HONOLULU, Hawaii—The USDA Farm Service Agency

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

- May 25, from 6pm to 11:55pm
- May 26, from 10am to 11:55pm
- May 27-31, from midnight to 4am and 10am to 11:55pm

The Navy will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on May 26-27, from noon to 8pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising of 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. For this training, W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank remain open for fishing. **(PR)**

invites all commercial farmers to attend an informational meeting to learn about how they can protect their financial investment in their farm through the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, commonly known as NAP. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26, at 10am at the Kagman Agriculture Station.

Farm Service Agency County executive director Tom Cama-

Agri Fair registration ongoing

The Saipan and Northern Islands Farmers Association is encouraging all farmers and ranchers to register early for the upcoming Agricultural Fair to be held on June 27.

The official rules and regulations have been posted. Copies are available online at <http://www.cnmiforestry.com/community-events> ; www.crees.org; and <http://deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=55>. Print copies are available at the Agriculture office in Kagman, Northern Marianas College CREES in As Terlaje, Department of Lands and Natural Resources in Lower Base, Animal Health Industry office in As Perdido, and the Farmer's Public Market in Garapan.

Sid Cabrera, a long-time member of the planning committee and this year's rule chairman, says sustaining the fair also helps sustain the local economy. The fair is a way to acknowledge the islands' hard-

cho said, "Typhoon Dolphin serves as another important reminder of the power of nature to devastate a farmer's livelihood, but there are ways to reduce business risks. Steps include treating the farm like a business; maintaining production records; and signing up for risk management programs such as NAP."

At this information meeting farmers will learn the basics of the NAP program, what is required

working ranchers and farmers.

"I hope they [farmers, ranchers] will show up at the orientation meeting so we can hear their concerns," Cabrera said.

The Agricultural Fair is slated for Saturday, June 27. Prizes for the plant category total \$7,000 while animal category shall reach \$4,000. Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to start preparing their crops and livestock for entry, and need to pre-register.

The association is also selling advertisement pages to help defray costs. SNIAFA is seeking for the following sponsorships: Platinum, \$5,000; Gold, \$3,000; Silver, \$2,000; and Bronze, \$1,000. Interested donors may contact SNIAFA at 664-8512.

The 2015 fair will take place on Saturday, June 27, at the 4-H Building in Susupe. For general inquiries, call DLNR at 322-9834, NMC CREES at 234-9630 or Division of Agriculture at 256-3319. **(PR)**

and the upcoming deadlines.

The 2014 Farm Bill authorized the waiver of basic NAP fees for historically underserved minorities, limited resource and beginning producers. The Farm Bill also provided a new optional Buy Up provision to NAP that can afford producers at a nominal fee with even greater coverage from losses due to natural disasters.

Guam Guard soldier in plea deal for G-RAP fraud

The Guam National Guard is disappointed by the latest indictment and plea deal of a soldier for possible fraudulent actions in regards to the Guard's Recruiting Assistance Program, also known as G-RAP.

As mentioned previously, the Guam National Guard is committed to correcting any problems identified by the Army Audit Agency and CID investigations of the G-RAP Program. We are working closely with civil authorities to identify and rectify situations where fraud was committed, and to disci-

pline those who were negligent in their duties. As with all alleged criminal acts, we take this issue very seriously and are cooperating fully.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations

During this meeting applications will not be taken for damage as a result of Typhoon Dolphin, but producers may schedule a follow-up site visit to inspect damage.

For more information, contact the FSA Guam County Office at 234-0896.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations

Although indictments have come down and others are forthcoming, we should not forget that there are more than 1,600 soldiers and Airmen of the Guam National Guard that continue to serve honorably and are doing great things for our island," said Brig. Gen. Roderick R. Leon Guerrero, The Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard. **(Guam National Guard)**

to attend or participate in this meeting/event/function should contact the FSA Guam County Office at 234-0896 or Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 by May 22, 2015. **(FSA)**

2015 Philippine Independence Day theme

The Philippine Consulate General informs the Filipino associations in Guam, the CNMI, RMI, FSM and Palau that the theme for the 117th anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence is: "Kalayaan 2015: Tagumpay sa Pagbabagong Nasimulan, Abot-Kamay Na Ng Bayan" ("Independence 2015: Triumphs Through Reforms, Within Nation's Reach")

The logo will be posted in the Philippine Consulate General website and Facebook account as soon as it becomes available. **(PCG Agaña)**

CTSI Logistics is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Logistics Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course and with at least 6 years management experience in the logistics business with emphasis on airfreight, ocean freight forwarding, warehousing and fuel hauling operations. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, Environmental and Occupational Safety Hazards is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Accounting Manager

Graduate of 4-year degree course in accounting with at least 5 years experience in financial management: directing the preparation of financial reports; implementing cash management; and directing investment activities for a logistics supply chain business operations. Must have excellent written communication and analysis skills for financial data reporting. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics software are a must. Expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point is required. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Sales & Marketing Manager

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Sales or Marketing or any Business course and at least 3 years of managerial work experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Accountant

Must be a college graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and Accounting with at least 3 years work experience in financial management for a logistics/supply chain business or agency operations. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system, freight forwarding, shipping and logistics systems. Must have expertise with MS Excel, Word and Power Point. Must be able to work under time pressure and can work flexible hours.

Storage and Distribution Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years of distribution and warehousing supervisory experience. Knowledge of household goods handling and airfreight and oceanfreight operations is required. Proficiency in Warehouse management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Shipping Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of shipping, receiving and warehousing supervisory experience is required. Proficiency in shipping operations, shipping documentation & cargo management system software is required. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation, 49 CFR & IMDG Code is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, IICL (Container and Chassis) and Vehicle Safety Guidelines. Knowledge of bill of lading, scheduling and planning inbound and outbound shipments is a must.

Transportation Supervisor

Associate's Degree and at least 3 years of logistics and trucking operations supervisory experience is required. Must be knowledgeable in transportation and safety regulations and proficient in various logistic software. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation, Emergency Response, IICL (Container and Chassis), Petroleum Standard Operating Procedure and Vehicle Safety Guidelines.

Freight Forwarding Supervisor

Associate's Degree with at least 3 years experience in freight forwarding operations and 1-year experience in transportation security and communication related activities. Knowledge of TSA security regulations and proficiency in TSA Known Shipper Management System are a must. Knowledge of Federal Regulations in Transportation is required. Must have obtained certifications/training in Hazmat, Occupational Safety and Hazardous Waste Operation and IATA related trainings. Proficiency in airfreight documentation, freight forwarding software, FEDEX systems and operations are a must. Must be familiar with airline operations and regulations.

Sales Officer

Associate's Degree in Sales or Marketing and at least 3 years work related experience are required as well as an extensive knowledge and experience in supply chain and freight brokerage. Must have his/her own reliable transportation. Can work flexible hours. Must be able to meet monthly sales targets and have extensive contacts in various industries. Proficiency in freight forwarding, shipping and household goods operations are a must. Must be familiar with freight forwarding software.

Cargo and Freight Agent (6)

Associate's Degree with a minimum of 2 years experience in a logistics, freight brokerage or warehouse services business. Must know how to operate a forklift with certification. Must be able to do strenuous work with some lifting and carrying of small items on the job. Licensed to drive 4x6 wheel closed vans and must have obtained training or certification in handling hazardous materials, Occupational Safety, Hazardous Waste Operation and IAC CCSF authorized screener. Must be proficient in MS Office and Oracle-based programs and available to work on evenings and weekend hours.

Specialized Truck Driver (7)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Must have at least 3 years experience in hauling petroleum products with the corresponding SMITHS & STOPS training certification, carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Heavy Equipment Truck Driver (3)

High School graduate with at least 2 years experience operating trucks or vans with a capacity of at least 10,001 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW) or 10 to 16-wheeled vehicles. Must have a valid commercial driver's license (CDL). Experience in carrying hazardous materials or oversized loads plus certificates or training in handling hazardous materials and cargoes is a must. Must be able to follow strict safety and operations procedures.

Shipping and Receiving Clerk (5)

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Truck Mechanic

Vocational or High School Graduate. Must be able to diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul trucks, or maintain and repair any type of engines. Minimum of two (2) year work experience is required on these areas: lubrication, repairs and servicing, use of machine tools, welding and flame cutting, engine elements, gears, brakes, transmission, exhausts, etc. Proficiency in critical devices for fuel tank trucks is a must.

Automotive Body Repairer

Formal Auto Body Training in a Vocational School is required as well as a minimum of one-year experience in repairing and refinishing automotive vehicle bodies' vehicle frames. Proficiency in automotive body painting is required.

Janitor

Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than May 29, 2015.

We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is now accepting Vendor Applications for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

All interested vendors may pick up an application at the main office located on Upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, beginning May 04, 2015 through July 17, 2015; Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or request for an application via email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or download an application on CHCC's website at <http://chcc.gov.mp>.

Applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program's Administrative Office no later than 4:00 p.m., July 17, 2015.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4066, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

/s/ Esther L. Muña
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

/s/ Carmen C. Cabrera
Administrator
CNMI WIC Program

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Janitor

Dependable attendance, hard working and follows directions well. Must be available to work early mornings, late nights and weekends.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification and experience. For applications to be considered, they should submit resume / application to CTSI Logistics, Lower Base not later than May 29, 2015.

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IN CELEBRATION OF 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Nenpou Shinkyo unveils two new monuments in Marpi



Members of the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination are joined by dignitaries, diplomats, and local officials after a peace ceremony at the Banzai Cliff.

JAYSON CAMACHO

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In celebration of its 90th anniversary, the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination held a peace ceremony with the unveiling of two new monuments in Marpi yesterday, representing the emperor and empress of Japan.

The ceremony started at 9am at the Last Command Post and ended at 12:30pm at Banzai Cliff. Both sites held a ceremony and the unveiling of the two monuments. One of the monuments, called Gyosei, was unveiled at the Last Command Post, while the second monument, called Miuta, was unveiled at Banzai Cliff.

Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist priests led the ceremony with prayers and chants. Flowers were placed on the memorial grounds, as well as gifts from the Nenpou Shinkyo.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Japan Consul Hitoshi Kikuchi, Reps. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan) and Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), and other officials joined the ceremony with the Japanese emperor's grandson, Prince Nobuhiko Higashikuni, and other Japanese dignitaries.

In his remarks, Ryoyu Okeya, president of Nenpou Shinkyo, said this was a very important milestone year for the group.

"It commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and 90th anniversary of the founding of Nenpou Shinkyo, including 10 years ago when the emperor and empress visited Saipan and toured memorial sites to mourn and pay tribute to the war dead," Okeya said.

Both monuments that were

unveiled were engraved with two *Waka* poems, a form of traditional Japanese poetry. The Gyosei inscription was written by the Japanese emperor himself while the one at the Miuta memorial was inscribed by the empress.

"This Gyosei monument remembers all those people

who fought at a place where there was no food, no water, and no medical treatment for the wounded during the fierce fighting. Miuta is remembering the women who threw themselves from a precipice at the end of the island in the desperate war situations," Okeya said.

"We continuously pray for the removal of all conflict, to rid of poverty, and to expel the act of evil from Earth. I make strong resolution and will mark a milestone this year. We wish a world with no boundaries and no discrimination against race or a religion, a world that is united with peace, love and

harmony," Okeya said.

Okeya, on behalf of Nenpou Shinkyo and officials of Japan, expressed his deep gratitude to CNMI and its government and prayed for continuous peace for NMI and the rest of the world.

Apatang said the ceremony was a blessing and a milestone

for Saipan and an honor that Nenpou Shinkyo comes to Saipan every year to host the peace ceremony.

The day before, Nenpou Shinkyo members joined the Saipan Mayor's Office and other agencies and organizations to clean up the Last Command Post and Banzai Cliff.

Japanese Buddhist group cleans up Banzai, Peace Memorial

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Japanese Buddhist group cleaned up Banzai Cliff and the Japanese Peace Memorial last Saturday to honor the memory of their countrymen and others who perished during World War II.

Gathering 150 members, the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination cleaned the area of as part of their tradition.

According to organizers Willie and Aya Matsumoto, who are in charge of coordinating with the Nenpou Shinkyo Denomination for years, cleaning up is a form of respect.

"Every year the denomination comes to the island. They believe that Saipan is a holy ground for all those who lost their souls during the World War II," James Sakamoto of Marianas Visitors Authority said, translating for the couple.

"They believe that it is a form of respect to do a cleanup on the island, then after the cleanup they're going to do a memorial the following day," he added.

The number of the delegation was also notable because it is not every year that they bring in a lot of members.

According to the Matsu-



Members of the Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination clean up Banzai Cliff and the Japanese Peace Memorial last Saturday to honor the memory of their countrymen and others who perished during World War II.

FRAULEINE MICHELLE S. VILLANUEVA

motos, 2015 is a milestone year for them. Aside from celebrating 70 years of the end of war, it has also been a decade since their majesties Emperor Akihiro and Empress Michiko visited the island.

They are also celebrating the

90th foundation anniversary of Nenpou Shinkyo Buddhist Denomination.

"We've developed a very strong relationship with the Nenpou group and it's a real pleasure to work with them in adding this particular monu-

ment, especially as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the visit of the emperor and empress," MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said.

"We've been working for a very long time with the Nenpou group to use the CNMI as an

opportunity to pray for world peace," he added.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang was also present at the cleanup to lend his support.

Nenpou Shinkyo is a Buddhist group that has more than 100,000 followers in Japan.

Tribute for fallen officers, firefighters, conservation officer



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, left, acting director of police Pedro A. Leon Guerrero, center, and Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres present a memorial wreath during Friday's National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony at DPS main complex in Susupe.

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero, and acting director of police Pedro A. Leon Guerrero led Friday the presentation of a memorial wreath to honor and pay tribute to fallen DPS officers, firefighters, and a conservation officer along with those who were disabled or seriously injured in the line of duty.

At the National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony held at Jose M. Sablan Building in Susupe, officers and family members presented candles at the DPS monument to pay tribute and honor 14 "fallen comrades."

Torres, Deleon Guerrero, Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, and Capital Improvement Projects coordinator Vicky Villagomez also led government officials and community leaders in a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated DPS main building complex.

In his remarks, Torres said he has had the great privilege of working with officers of the CNMI force and that in them he witnessed the true strength required to seek peace.

"The courage to put oneself in harm's way, the selflessness to put the public's interest ahead of their own, and the enduring fortitude that has them striving for peace in our islands, even in the dead of night," Torres said.

Torres said there is no greater

testament to these values than the officers who are being honored and their memories "are the greatest monuments of time."

"No words. No remarks, and no amount of gratitude can ever repay them for giving everything God has bestowed upon them in the name of peace," he said.

In his remarks, DPS Commissioner Deleon Guerrero provided an update on the ongoing CNMI Public Safety Museum project.

The original plan to complete the project was 2014.

Deleon Guerrero said they are hoping to establish a committee for the museum by June this year, with the project's target opening date this August.

The commissioner also thanked the governor's office and CIP in ensuring the completion of the new public safety complex in Susupe.

The honored officers at the ceremony were Capts. Justino T. Arriola and Tommy Alexander; Sgt. Julian A. Manglona; police officers Abraham S. Quitugua, Joaquin T. Mettao, Erlinse C. Santos, Gilbert M. Taisacan, Wilgene T. Lieto, Joe Charfauros Jr.; fire fighters Esteban R. Nogis, Ernie T. Dela Cruz, and Joaquin Camacho; resident director John T. Barcinas; and conservation officer Jesus A. Omar.

Officers disabled or seriously injured in the line of duty were police Sgt. Antonio SN Borja, and police officers Marvin S. Camacho, Jose Cepeda, and Victor M. Hocog.

The DPS Blues sang the national and CNMI anthems. Doug Tudor played Taps, while the DPS Special Enforcement Action Section presented a 21-gun salute. Police officer 1 Patrick Arriola served as chairman of this year's Public Safety Awareness Month. Alina Cabrera served as mistress of ceremony.

The Korean Association of Saipan, through its secretary Ho Joon Joo, donated \$1,000 to the DPS Foundation to show the group's support for DPS' services.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Members of the Department of Public Safety's Special Enforcement Action Section render a 21-gun salute during Friday's National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony at DPS main complex in Susupe.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Korean Association of Saipan secretary Ho Joon Joo presents a \$1,000 donation to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero for the DPS Foundation during Friday's National Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony at DPS main complex in Susupe.

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that the Regular Meeting will be held Thursday, May 28, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹
- III. REPORTS
 - a. Chair's Report
 - b. Executive Director's Report
- IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Management of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Policy & Procedure re Investigative Fees Account
 - b. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
 - c. Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Voucher Approval Request
 - d. TCGCC Proceeding No. 15-01
 - e. Licensing Matters
 1. Casino Key Employee License Applications
 2. Casino Employee License Applications
 3. Hotel Registrations
 4. Casino Service Industry License Applications
 - a. Transactional Permit Requests
 1. Silver Heritage Limited
 2. Tinian Trading International Inc.
 5. Casino License/Suitability Applications
 - a. Mega Stars Overseas Limited/Chu Chan Wai
- VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION²
- VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. New Business
 - A. VLT RFP
 - a. Status
 - b. Plan of Action
 - B. Amendment to Lottery Commission Law
 - a. Discussion on additional members
 - C. Development Plan Advisory Committee (D-PAC)
 - a. Discuss issues pertaining to the D-PAC
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CHANGE

May 25, 2015

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 3, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), hereby issue this Notice of Change to the:

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR BOND TRUSTEE SERVICES 2015-CDA-04-RFP

The previous deadline of "no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on May 23, 2015 is changed to "no later than 4:30 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (Chst) on May 26, 2015", for submission of proposals in response to the above request for RFP.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Executive Director, CDA

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Business

FOR BUSINESSES IN THE U.S. TERRITORIES

Cash transactions of \$10K or more must be reported

The Internal Revenue Service reminds businesses in U.S. territories that they must file Form 8300 when they engage in cash transactions in excess of \$10,000. Businesses must file Form 8300, *Report of Cash Payments Over \$10,000 Received in a Trade or Business*, with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service within 15 days of the transaction.

The requirement to file form 8300 applies if a person or entity engages in business and receives more than \$10,000 cash in a transaction or in two

or more related transactions, any portion of which occurs in any U.S. possession or territory, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The requirement to file Form 8300 with the IRS is in addition to any filing obligation the business may also have with U.S. territory tax authorities under similar territory rules, including under a

U.S. territorial mirror income tax code.

Examples of businesses that may have to file Form 8300 include those that sell jewelry, furniture, boats, aircraft, or automobiles, as well as those that are pawnbrokers, attorneys, real estate brokers, insurance companies, and travel agencies.

Cash includes the coins and currency of the United States and a foreign country. Cash may

also include cashier's checks, bank drafts, traveler's checks, and money orders with a face value of \$10,000 or less. The law requires that businesses report transactions when customers use cash in a single transaction or a related transaction. Related transactions occur within a 24-hour period. If the same payer makes two or more transactions totaling more than \$10,000 in a 24-hour period, the business must treat the transactions as one transaction and report the payments. A 24-hour period is 24

hours, not necessarily a calendar day or banking day.

"Federal laws that regulate the reporting of financial transactions are in place to detect and stop illegal activities, and we are reminding the public today to ensure everyone complies with the law," said Assistant Special Agent in Charge Thomas J. Gutierrez of IRS Criminal Investigation. "Structuring financial transactions in order to avoid currency reporting requirements is a criminal violation of federal

law. We will vigorously pursue anyone who willfully fails to file the Form 8300."

For additional information on the filing of Form 8300 with the IRS, including who must file, where to file, and other special circumstances, see the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/Businesses/Small-Businesses-&Self-Employed/IRS-Form-8300-Reference-Guide>.

For additional information about IRS Criminal Investigation, visit www.irs.gov. (IRS)

» Form 8300 must be filed with IRS

California farmers agree to drastically cut water use

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California farmers who hold some of the state's strongest water rights avoided the threat of deep mandatory cuts when the state accepted their proposal to voluntarily reduce consumption by 25 percent amid one of the worst droughts on record.

Officials hope the deal agreed upon on Friday will serve as a model for more such agreements with growers in the nation's top-producing farm state, where agriculture accounts for 80 percent of all water drawn from rivers, streams and the ground.

"We're in a drought unprecedented in our time. That's calling upon us to take unprecedented action," Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the state Water Resources Control Board, said in announcing the agreement.

The rare concession from the farmers is the latest indication of the severity of the water shortage in California, which is suffering through its driest four years on record.

California water law is built around preserving the rights of so-called senior rights holders—farmers and others whose acreage abuts rivers and streams, or whose claims to water date back a century or more, as far back as Gold Rush days.

The offer potentially could cover hundreds of farmers in the delta of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, the heart of California's water system. About 25 percent of all California river water runs through the delta, according to the state's Department of Water Resources.

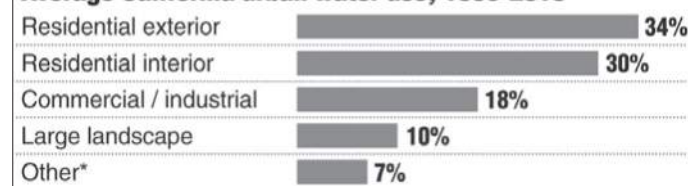
Some of the farmers made the offer after state officials warned they were days away from ordering the first cuts in more than 30 years to the senior water rights holders' allotments.

The state already has ordered cities and towns to cut their water use by 25 percent, and it has curtailed water deliveries to many other farmers. But in recent weeks, many city dwellers

Cities' water consumption

The largest portion of urban water consumption in California is outdoor use. Residential and large landscape watering together make up 44%.

Average California urban water use, 1998-2010



*Includes: Groundwater recharge, conveyance and energy production
Source: California Department of Water Resources
Graphic: Tribune News Service

and others have complained that agriculture should be made to share more of the sacrifice.

Rudy Mussi, whose family farms about 4,000 acres in the delta southwest of Stockton, reacted with mixed emotions about state approval of the deal.

"The 25 percent savings, that gives us certainty," Mussi said. "But at the same time I'm being asked to give up 25 percent of my paycheck."

By itself, the delta farmers' offer would not go far enough to save shrinking waterways statewide. But if more farmers sign on across the state, California could save significant amounts of water, since the nearly 4,000 senior water rights holders alone consume trillions of gallons a year.

The agreement "is an illustration of creative practical approaches that water managers in the state of California are taking to help get us all through this devastating drought," said Michael George, state water master for the delta.

California produces nearly half of the fruits, nuts and vegetables grown in the U.S., but agriculture experts say they would expect only modest immediate effects on food prices from any reduction in water for the senior water rights holders. Other regions would be able to make up the difference, economists say.

Under the deal, delta farmers have until June 1 to lay out how they will use 25 percent less water during the summer. That could include irrigating their

crops less or leaving some of their land fallow.

In exchange, the state gave assurances to the farmers it will not cut the remaining 75 percent

of the water to which they are entitled.

"When your back is up against the wall, I guess you'll do anything," said Paul Wenger, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation and an almond grower in the Modesto area, outside of the delta. He said he is skeptical the deal will protect the farmers if the drought worsens.

Senior water rights holders last saw their water cut in 1977, but that move applied only to dozens of people along a stretch of the Sacramento River.

Ellen Hanak, a water policy expert at the Public Policy Institute of California think tank,

Perry Inos Jr. joins Triple J Saipan

Triple J Saipan Inc. has announced the hiring of Perry Atalig Inos Jr. as special project analyst effective May 26, 2015. Inos has a degree in business administration from the University



Inos Jr. recently was the Department of Commerce's Director of Small Business Development.

Robert H. Jones, chairman and chief executive officer of Triple J, stated: "I am very pleased that Mr. Inos has agreed to become part of the Triple J team. The success of Triple J throughout our 30

years of business is founded upon honesty, integrity, and providing customers with quality product at competitive prices. Critical to this approach is the hiring of Northern Mariana Island person-

nel for management and staff whenever possible. We feel fortunate to add Mr. Inos to our staff as we feel that he can bring fresh ideas and energy to the Triple J team and help to lead us in future endeavors during the next 30 years of service to the community. (Triple J)

Pipeline that leaked wasn't equipped with auto shut-off

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The pipeline that leaked thousands of gallons of oil on the California coast was the only pipe of its kind in the county not required to have an automatic shut-off valve because of a court fight nearly three decades ago, a county official said.

The original owner of the pipeline skirted the Santa Barbara County requirement by successfully arguing in court in the late 1980s that it should be subject to federal oversight because the pipeline is part of an interstate network, said Kevin Drude, deputy director of the county's Energy and Minerals Division. Auto shut-off valves are not required by federal regulators.

"It's the only major pipeline that doesn't have auto shut-off," Drude said. "For us, it's routine."

Federal regulators are investigating the cause of Tuesday's leak that spilled up to 105,000 gallons of crude oil from an underground pipe into a culvert and as much as 21,000 gallons into the ocean at Refugio State Beach. The spill killed untold numbers of fish, at least five pelicans and a sea lion. It also mired other wildlife, including

an elephant seal, in the muck.

Plains All American Pipeline was still draining the pipe and trying to locate the leak Saturday. Federal regulators ordered the company to remove the damaged section and send it to a lab for tests on the metal, along with a series of other steps before it could resume pumping oil through the pipe to inland refineries.

Plains said the pipeline had one valve to shut it down if oil flowed in the opposite direction and three valves controlled by operators in its Midland, Texas, control room.

Plains defended its people approach to manually shutting down the system, saying it's the standard across the country for liquid pipelines.

"It is much safer for operators

who understand the operations of the pipeline to shut it down following a planned sequence of steps than for computer to automatically close a valve on oil that is traveling in confined space at high pressure," Patrick Hodgins, the company's senior director of safety, said Saturday. "This is all standard operating procedures within our industry."



Workers prepare an oil containment boom at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., Thursday, May 21, 2015.

Nation

Protests, arrests after Ohio officer's acquittal in 2 deaths

CLEVELAND (AP)—Police in riot gear made numerous arrests overnight as protesters took to the streets after a judge found a city police officer not guilty in the deaths of two unarmed black suspects killed in a barrage of police gunfire.

Michael Brelo, 31, faces administrative charges while remaining suspended without pay after his acquittal Saturday on two counts of voluntary manslaughter, but he no longer faces the prospect of prison. The anxious city now awaits a decision on criminal charges against a white officer in the fatal shooting of a black 12-year-old boy with a pellet gun.

Brelo and 12 other officers fired 137 shots at a car with Timothy Russell and Malissa Williams inside it on Nov. 29, 2012. The shooting occurred at the end of a 22-mile-long chase involving more than 100 Cleveland police officers and 60 cruisers after Russell's Chevy Malibu backfired while speeding by police headquarters. During the chase, an officer reported that he thought he'd seen Williams with a gun. At the end,

police mistook police gunfire for shots from Russell's car.

Brelo fired 49 of those shots that night, but it was the final 15 fired into the windshield while he stood on the hood of Russell's car that led his indictment and a four-week trial. He faced up to 22 years in prison if convicted on both counts.

The shooting helped prompt an investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice that concluded Cleveland police had engaged in a pattern and practice of excessive use of force and violations of people's civil rights.

Angry but mostly orderly protests followed Saturday's verdict. More than a dozen protesters were arrested Saturday night for failing to disperse from an alley in the city's Warehouse District on downtown's west side, deputy police chief Wayne Drummond said. Several other people were arrested elsewhere downtown.

The first protest formed outside the Justice Center Saturday morning while Judge John P. O'Donnell read from his 35-page verdict. A larger protest of around 200



Demonstrators march during a protest against the acquittal of Michael Brelo, a patrolman charged in the shooting deaths of two unarmed suspects, Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Cleveland. AP

people gathered at noon near where Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Tim McGinty lives. Both protests later merged at a recreation center where 12-year-old Tamir Rice was killed by a rookie patrol officer last November. While that demonstra-

tion became boisterous, with Eugene Rice angrily calling for justice for his grandson, it remained peaceful. An investigation into the Tamir Rice shooting is nearly complete and will

be given to the prosecutor's office to decide whether to pursue criminal charges.

Alicia Kirkman, 47, of Cleveland, said she joined the march in honor of her son, killed in a

police shooting eight years ago.

"I'm just so mad we never get justice from any of the police killings," said Kirkman, who said she settled with the city after her son's death but no charges were filed.

The judge said in his ruling that he wouldn't "sacrifice" Brelo to the wave of anti-police sentiment that has swept across the nation in the wake of other police in-custody deaths. While protests in cities like Baltimore, New York City and Ferguson, Missouri, have erupted into violence, the demonstrations in Cleveland didn't escalate.

The judge's decision to acquit Brelo focused on which shots killed Russell, 43, and Williams, 30, two homeless drug addicts with a long history of mental illness. Four of the 23 gunshot wounds to Russell and seven of Williams' 24 wounds were believed to have been fatal. O'Donnell said that while testimony showed Brelo fired some of the fatal shots, other officers fired kill shots as well.

NSA winds down once-secret phone-records collection program

WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Security Agency has begun winding down its collection and storage of American phone records after the Senate failed to agree on a path forward to change or extend the once-secret program ahead of its expiration at the end of the month.

Barring an 11th hour compromise when the Senate returns to session May 31, a much-debated provision of the Patriot Act—and some other lesser known surveillance tools—will sunset at midnight that day. The change also would have a major impact on the FBI, which uses the Patriot Act and the other provisions to gather records in investigations of suspected spies and terrorists.

In a chaotic scene during the wee hours of Saturday, Sen-

ate Republicans blocked a bill known as the USA Freedom Act, which would have ended the NSA's bulk collection but preserved its ability to search the records held by the phone companies on a case-by-case basis. The bill was backed by President Barack Obama, House Republicans and the nation's top law enforcement and intelligence officials.

It fell just three votes short of the 60 needed for passage. All the "no" votes but one were cast by Republicans, some of whom said they thought the USA Freedom Act didn't go far enough to help the NSA maintain its capabilities.

If Senate Republican leaders were counting on extending current law and continuing the

negotiations, they miscalculated. Democrats and libertarian-minded Republicans refused to go along. A bill to grant a two-month extension of the law failed, and senators objected to each attempt by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky offer up a short term extension.

The failure to act means the NSA will immediately begin curtailing its searches of domestic phone records for connections to international terrorists. The Justice Department said in a statement that it will take time to taper off the collection process from the phone companies. That process began Friday, said an administration official who would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

people how you want to be treated," said godson Tyler Kinloch, 21, who fishes with her. "I definitely carry that with me every single day."

Ohio man charged with murder after 5-year-old son dies

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio (AP)—An Ohio man who authorities say told officers he used a plastic wand from window blinds as a switch on his 5-year-old son has been charged with murder in the boy's death. Twenty-four-year-old Anthony Barton of Bellefontaine was charged Friday after being charged days earlier with felony child endangering. Barton's son Michael died at a hospital Wednesday, two days after Barton's girlfriend called 911 to report the boy wasn't breathing. The Columbus Dispatch reports that preliminary autopsy results show the boy received multiple blows to the head, causing his brain to bleed. Barton remained in the Logan County jail Saturday on \$1 million bond. It's not clear if he has an attorney.

Veterans frustrated by presidential debate on Iraq war

By **REBECCA SANTANA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

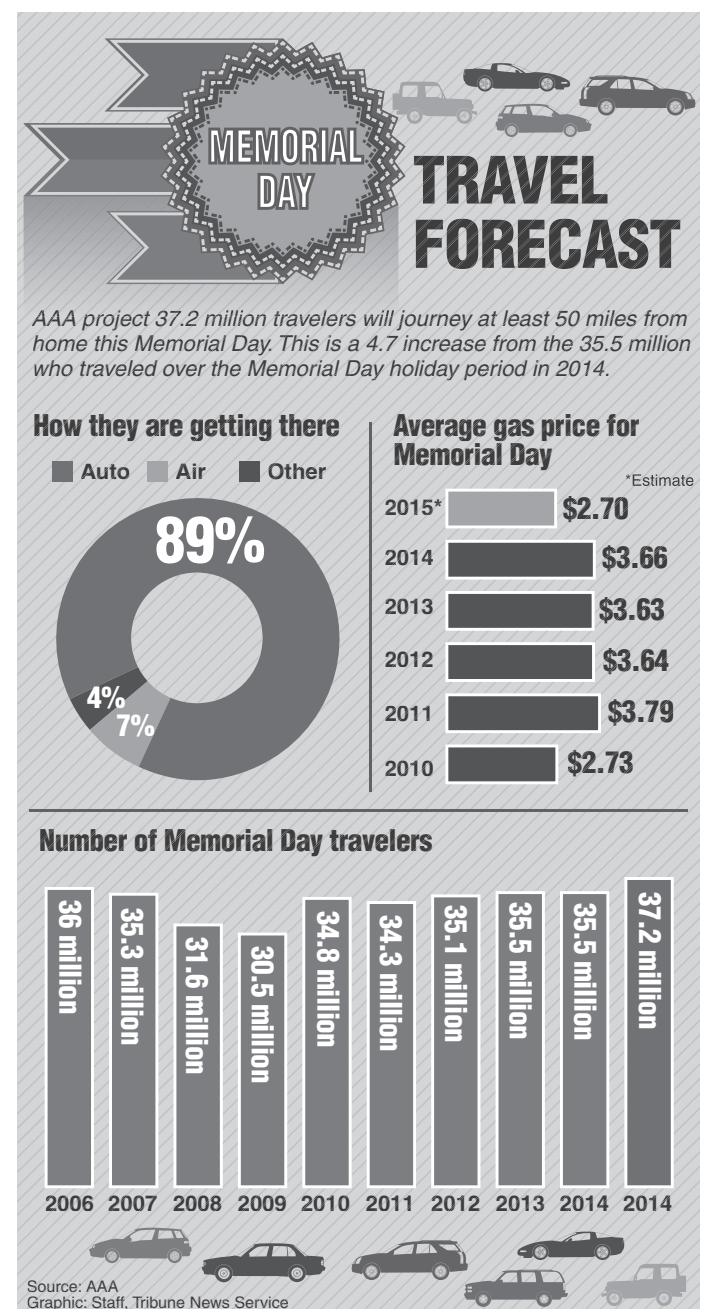
Veterans of the Iraq War have been watching in frustration as Republican presidential contenders distance themselves from the decision their party enthusiastically supported to invade that country.

Some veterans say they long ago concluded their sacrifice was in vain, and are annoyed that a party that lobbied so hard for the war is now running from it. Others say they still believe their mission was vital, regardless of what the politicians say. And some find the gotcha question being posed to the politicians—Knowing what we know now, would you have invaded?—an insult in itself.

"Do-overs don't happen in real life," said Gregory Diacogiannis, 30, who served as an army sniper in Baghdad trying to spot militants laying roadside bombs and chased high-value targets in the city of Baqouba. "I have trouble with the question itself just because it lends itself to disregarding the sacrifices that have been made."

Diacogiannis left the army in 2008, but says even now he feels such a strong attachment to Iraq that he's thought about going back to fight as the country has plunged into chaos since U.S. troops left.

The war became a campaign issue when likely presidential contender Jeb Bush was asked about the invasion ordered by his brother, former President George W. Bush. After days of questioning, Jeb Bush said that



in light of what's now known—that Saddam Hussein did not have WMD stockpiles—he would not have invaded.

Other possible Republican

hopefuls including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, Sen. Marco Rubio, Sen. Ted Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich all later gave similar responses.

ACROSS THE NATION

Just another birthday for Detroit-area woman—her 116th

INKSTER, Mich. (AP)—A Detroit-area woman turned 116 Saturday, but she offers no secret for a long life. "There's nothing I can do about it," Jeralean Talley of Inkster said ahead of her birthday weekend. Talley will celebrate her birthday twice, including a party on Sunday at her church, New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist. The Gerontology Research Group considers her to be the oldest person in the world, based on available records, followed by Susannah Jones of Brooklyn, New York, who turns 116 in July. "You're more likely to win the lottery than to reach this age," said Robert Young of Gerontology Research. Talley bowled until she was 104 and still likes to catch fish. A daughter, Thelma Holloway, tells the Detroit Free Press that her mother still has a sharp mind. She was born in Montrose, Georgia, in 1899 and moved to Michigan in the 1930s. Talley's husband died in 1988 at age 95. "Her No. 1 rule is to treat

Asia

Women's walk across Korea's DMZ denied; they cross on bus

DORASAN STATION, South Korea (AP)—International women activists including Gloria Steinem and two Nobel Peace laureates on Sunday were denied an attempt to walk across the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea, but were allowed to cross by bus and complete what one of them called a landmark peace event.

The group of 30 women from 15 countries made a final appeal to authorities on both sides to allow them to walk across the demarcation line, but were turned down. The North allowed a South Korean bus to cross the demarcation line to pick them up on the North side of the DMZ and transport them over the border to South Korea.

United Nations Command officials met the group inside the DMZ after they crossed the demarcation line, and allowed them to march again after the final checkpoint on the southern side.

"We were able to be citizen diplomats," said Steinem, the 81-year-old feminism pioneer and author. "We are feeling very, very positive. We have received an enormous amount of support," she said after passing through



Aiyong Choi, right, waves as she and a group of peace activists including Gloria Steinem, (not pictured), an iconic figure in the equal rights movement in the United States, march at the Three Charters for National Reunification Memorial Tower, Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Pyongyang, North Korea.

South Korean immigration.

The group includes two Nobel Peace Prize laureates—Mairead Maguire, from Northern Ireland, and Leymah Gbowee, from Liberia.

The women walked, carried banners and sang on the North Korean side of the first checkpoint leading into the DMZ. They were then met by a large contingent of media on the South side.

The Koreans have remained divided since the 1950-53 Ko-

rean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The DMZ that divides them is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world. Authorities on both sides said they could not guarantee the safety of the women had they walked across.

Organizer Christine Ahn, a Korean-American peace activist, said the group had initially wanted to walk through the symbolic truce village of Panmunjom, where the armistice was signed.

China, US assert rights after exchange over S. China Sea

BEIJING (AP) — China said Thursday it is entitled to keep watch over airspace and seas surrounding artificial islands it created in the disputed waters of the South China Sea, following an exchange in which its navy warned off a U.S. surveillance plane. The United States said its aerial patrolling was in accordance with international law and "no one in their right mind" would try to stop it.

Neither side says it wants confrontation with the other, but as China seeks to assert its expansive claims to the South

China Sea, the U.S. is pushing back and trying to demonstrate that China's massive land reclamation does not give it territorial rights.

A news crew from CNN reported it witnessed an incident Wednesday in which a Chinese navy dispatcher demanded eight times that a U.S. Navy P8-A Poseidon surveillance aircraft leave the area as it flew over Fiery Cross Reef, where China has conducted extensive reclamation work. It said the U.S. crew responded that they were flying through international air-

space, to which the Chinese dispatcher answered: "This is the Chinese navy ... You go!"

The Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank posted more video Thursday of the aerial patrol above the Spratly island chain which it said had been released by the U.S. Navy.

Speaking at a regular daily briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei reiterated Beijing's insistence on its indisputable sovereignty over the islands it has created by piling sand on top of atolls and reefs.

related deaths have been reported since April 15, said Bhambal Ram Meena, a top state official. Day temperatures in Telangana's Khammam district soared to more than 48 degrees Celsius (118 Fahrenheit) on Saturday. Meena said 16 people had died in the district as a result of the heat in the past three days.

52 dead in China floods, including 2 kids on overloaded bus

BEIJING (AP)—The death toll in China's latest round of flooding has risen to at least 52, including two schoolchildren aboard a bus carrying more than twice its authorized passenger load that plunged into a pond, authorities said. At least six other people are missing in floods that have ravaged mountain districts of six provinces and autonomous regions in central and southeastern China. More than a quarter-million people have been moved to temporary shelters, and major damage has been inflicted on buildings and crops. Apart from the two schoolchildren, 42 others have died due to floods and heavy rains, including 16 in the collapse of a nine-story building in the city of Guiyang following a landslide.

World

Many questions in Mexico cartel battle that killed 43

ECUANDUREO, Mexico (AP)—The call for backup went out to local police after 8 a.m. There was a shootout underway at a ranch in the western reaches of Michoacan state and the federal authorities needed help.

One patrolman said he sped with his colleagues from a town 20 minutes away and arrived at the scene Friday to see bullets flying and military and police helicopters hovering overhead in what would become the deadliest confrontation with suspected cartel members in recent memory.

"It looked like a battlefield," the officer said Saturday, insisting that on anonymity like everyone at the scene.

The bloodshed at the ranch left 42 suspected criminals dead. One federal police officer died while trying to aid a wounded comrade, government officials said.

Investigators and human rights officials continued to

work Saturday at the scene, where patrol cars of many agencies could be seen parked, and police guarded all entrances to the property, even dirt paths lead onto the 112-hectare (277-acre) property known as Rancho de Sol.

Photographs from the site showed the bodies of men without shirts and some without shoes strewn over the ranch, in an area near the Michoacan border with Jalisco state that is a stronghold of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, one of the most powerful and fastest-growing organized crime groups to surface in recent years.

The bodies, some appearing to lie with semi-automatic rifles, lay in fields, next to farm equipment and on a blood-stained patio strewn with clothes, mattresses and sleeping bags. Video of the battle obtained by The Associated Press showed federal police officers coming under fire

While National Security Commissioner Monte Alejandro Rubido wouldn't name the cartel, he said the responsible group has its base in Jalisco state.

Government officials said the shooting broke out early Friday as federal authorities responded to a complaint of armed men taking over the ranch.

Federal forces heading to the ranch met a truck carrying armed men who opened fire, and when government forces chased the gunmen onto the ranch, they came under heavy fire from others, Rubido said.

Authorities detained three people and confiscated 36 semi-automatic weapons, two smaller arms, a grenade launcher that had been fired and a .50-caliber rifle, Rubido said.

He said eight vehicles also were confiscated, six of them set ablaze by a fire inside a storehouse that created a black plume of smoke seen for miles.

Syrians try to build case against Assad in chlorine attacks

BEIRUT (AP)—With only a cloth mask for protection, Firas Kayali rushed to try to rescue the residents of a house in a village in rebel-held northern Syria after a barrel bomb, suspected to be filled with chlorine gas, hit nearby.

Once a house painter and now a member in a volunteer rescue team, Kayali tried once, twice, three times to break into the house, but he was overcome by the gas and passed out. Only 20 minutes later, after the gas dissipated, was the team able to get into the house.

Inside, they found a toddler dead, still wrapped in his blankets in bed, Kayali told The Associated Press, recounting the May 2 attack. The child's father died a few days later, his

lungs collapsed, in a hospital near the Turkish border.

"I blamed myself first. But then again I go back and say if we had equipment and outfits, maybe," Kayali said. "Then again, 'if' will not change anything now. ... God destined and what he destined happened."

Frustrated and despairing, Syrian opposition activists are trying to garner international pressure to stop a growing number of attacks using chlorine gas, which they say are undoubtedly carried out by government aircraft.

Two years after President Bashar Assad agreed to destroy his chemical arsenal and joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, activists say they have documented 18 cases of chlo-

rine gas used in the country's rebel-held north since March 6, when the United Nations issued a resolution determining that chlorine was used in Syria and warning of repercussions. They say the attacks have killed nine people and injured hundreds.

The Syrian government denies using chlorine gas. But activists and residents of the villages hit say the attacks, usually at night, are clearly by government forces. The chlorine bombs are dropped in barrels from the skies, and residents say they hear the buzz of helicopters first. Syrian military forces are the only combatants in the civil war known to fly helicopters, and the villages hit are pro-rebel, largely in the northwestern province of Idlib.

'Bold' Ireland votes to legalize gay marriage in landslide

DUBLIN (AP)—Ireland's citizens have voted in a landslide to legalize gay marriage, electoral officials announced Saturday—a stunningly lopsided result that illustrates what Catholic leaders and rights activists alike called a "social revolution."

Friday's referendum saw 62.1 percent of Irish voters say "yes" to changing the nation's constitution to define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their sex. Outside Dublin Castle, watching the results announcement in its cobblestoned courtyard, thousands of gay rights activists cheered, hugged and cried at the news.

"With today's vote, we have disclosed who we are: a generous, compassionate, bold and joyful people," Prime Minister

Enda Kenny proclaimed as he welcomed the outcome. Beside him, Deputy Prime Minister Joan Burton declared the victory "a magical moving moment, when the world's beating heart is in Ireland."

Ireland is the first country to approve gay marriage in a popular national vote. Nineteen other countries, including most U.S. states, have legalized the practice through their legislatures and courts.

The unexpectedly strong percentage of approval surprised both sides. More than 1.2 million Irish voters backed the "yes" side to less than 750,000 voting "no." Only one of Ireland's 43 constituencies recorded a narrow "no" majority, Roscommon-South Leitrim in the boggy midlands.

Analysts credited the "yes" side with adeptly employing social media to mobilize young, first-time voters, tens of thousands of whom voted for the first time Friday. The "yes" campaign also featured moving personal stories from prominent Irish people—either coming out as gays or describing their hopes for gay children—that helped convince wavering voters to back equal marriage rights.

Both Catholic Church leaders and gay rights advocates said the result signaled a social revolution in Ireland, where only a few decades ago the authority of Catholic teaching was reinforced by voters who massively backed bans on abortion and divorce in the 1980s.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Top US commander says IS actively recruiting in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The commander of international forces in Afghanistan said on Saturday that the Islamic State group is actively recruiting in Afghanistan but is not yet operational there. General John F. Campbell said the group's sophisticated social media campaign was attracting Taliban fighters based in Afghanistan and Pakistan who are disgruntled with the lack of progress in more than 10 years of fighting to overthrow the Kabul government. As a result, many were pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group, which controls about a third of Syria and Iraq, Campbell told reporters.

Southeast India heat wave kills about 230 in past 5 weeks

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—About 230 people have died since mid-April in a heat wave sweeping two southeast Indian states, officials said Saturday. More than 100 people have died from the brutal heat in Andhra Pradesh state in the last week, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the state's top elected official, told reporters. In neighboring Telangana state, around 130 heat-

Health & Fitness

Democrats see skimpy insurance as the next health care issue

WASHINGTON (AP)—A different health care issue has emerged for Democrats, in sync with the party's pitch to workers and middle-class voters ahead of next year's elections.

It's not the uninsured, but rather the problem of high out-of-pocket costs for people al-

ready covered.

Democrats call it "underinsurance."

After paying premiums, many low- and middle-income patients still face high costs when trying to use their coverage. There's growing concern that the value of a health

insurance card is being eaten away by rising deductibles, the amount of actual medical costs that patients pay each year before coverage kicks in.

"I think it's going to be the next big problem," said Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., a congressional leader on

health care.

"We've got some 17 million more people covered... but they can't access the care they seem to be entitled to," McDermott said. "It costs too much to use the care. That's the deceptive part about it."

Since virtually all U.S. residents are now required to have health insurance by President Barack Obama's health care law, McDermott said Democrats have a responsibility to make sure coverage translates to meaningful benefits.

Several liberal-leaning organizations have recently focused on the issue.

■ A Commonwealth Fund study found that 31 million adults were underinsured last year. Half of them had problems with medical bills or medical debt. Seven million were underinsured due to

high deductibles alone. "The steady growth in the proliferation and size of deductibles threatens to increase underinsurance in the years ahead," the study concluded.

■ A study by the advocacy group Families USA found that one-quarter of the people with individual health insurance policies went without care in 2014 because they could not afford the out-of-pocket costs. The study singled out high deductibles.

■ The Center for American Progress, a think tank often aligned with the White House, found that employers have been shifting a disproportionate burden of health care costs onto workers. As a result, the report said, employees and their families have not shared in the benefits of a prolonged lull in medical inflation. The

group recommended several policy changes, including rebates for workers under certain conditions.

"Cost shifting is part of what makes people underinsured," said Tophir Spiro, vice president for health policy at the center. "There's an effort to raise the issue generally, and there's general recognition that this is a problem that needs to be addressed."

The insurance industry says the focus on deductibles and cost sharing is misplaced. It says the real problem is that the United States pays too much for medical care. Deductibles can be a legitimate tool for employers and insurers to steer patients to doctors and hospitals providing high-quality care at a reasonable cost. Some plans set lower amounts for services provided within a network.

Study: Fewer kids have severe mental problems; more get help



In this April 10, 2003 file photo, bottles filled with the anti-psychotic drug Zyprexa sit on a packaging line at a Eli Lilly & Co. factory in Indianapolis.

By **MARILYNN MARCHIONE**
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

Contrary to public perception and horrific cases that make headlines, serious mental problems are declining among the nation's youth, and there has been a big rise in how many are getting help, a new study finds.

The study is mostly good news: More children and teens are taking mental health medicines than ever before, but more also are getting therapy, not just pills. The biggest rise in treatment rates has been among the most troubled kids.

"There's a concern out there that a lot of children and adolescents are receiving mental health treatments, particularly medications, that they don't need," especially for conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, said the study's leader, Dr. Mark Olfson, a psychiatrist at Columbia University Medical Center and the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

Instead, the results suggest "that at least in some ways, we're moving in the right direction," by getting help to kids who need it most, he said.

The dark cloud: More than half of severely troubled kids get no help at all.

The study used nationwide surveys done by the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality over three periods from 1996 to 2012, covering more than 53,000 youths ages 6 to 17. Results are in

Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Some highlights, which compare the first survey to the most recent one:

SEVERE MENTAL PROBLEMS DECLINING

The percentage of youths with serious impairments dropped from 13 percent to 11 percent.

"There's a public perception that there are more and more kids who have these disorders, and the new report challenges that," Olfson said. Other research has found drops in rates of binge drinking and dropping out of school, so the new study "does fit with other trends," he said.

MORE ARE GETTING CARE

Use of any outpatient mental health service rose from 9 percent to 13 percent. The rise was greatest for severely troubled kids, and went from 26 percent to 44 percent - from 1.56 million annually to 2.28 million.

Among kids with less or no impairment, the portion getting treatment went from about 7 percent to nearly 10 percent, or from about 2.74 million kids a year to 4.19 million.

MEDICATION USE IS UP

The use of any mental health drug rose from about 6 percent to 9 percent. Among youths with severe problems, medication use went from 18 percent to 32 percent. Among the rest - mild or no problems - it went from 4 percent to 6 percent.

Some people complain, "Oh

my goodness, these poor little children are on these powerful drugs," said Dr. Gabrielle Carlson, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Stony Brook University School of Medicine on New York's Long Island. "But most of the kids offered these drugs have big, powerful problems," and the real issue is finding more effective drugs and getting more kids the help they need, she said.

NOT JUST PILLS

The percentage of youths getting therapy rose from 4 percent to 6 percent. That may reflect more access to care in general: Other research shows that medical visits of all kinds rose for these age groups over that time.

THE ADHD SITUATION

Use of stimulants such as methylphenidate, sold as Ritalin and other brands, rose from 4 percent of youths to 6.6 percent. These drugs are often given for ADHD, which affects more than 1 in 10 children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MANY KIDS GET NO HELP

About 56 percent of youths with serious troubles were not in care.

"There's a tremendous amount of unmet need," said Dr. Brady Case, a child psychiatrist at Bradley Hospital in East Providence, Rhode Island. It's possible that one reason serious impairment rates are falling "is that treatment is working" for those who get it, he said.

Countries approve plan for \$100M health emergency fund

BERLIN (AP)—Diplomats have approved the creation of a \$100 million fund to help the World Health Organization respond rapidly to emergencies.

The Geneva-based U.N. agency has come under criti-

cism for reacting too slowly to crises in recent years, including the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Delegates from the WHO's 194 member states, meeting in Geneva, approved the fund Saturday as part of an overhaul of

the agency's emergency work. The money will come from voluntary member contributions and is meant to allow WHO to fund field operations for up to three months.

It will be reviewed after two years.

Personal Trainer

Indoor triathlon short, intense

Some people do indoor triathlons to stay conditioned for the real, outdoor thing; some run them just for fun and a unique challenge.



Outdoor
Distance fixed;
fastest time wins



Indoor
Time fixed; longest
distance wins



Typical race takes 60 minutes

• 10-minute swim in pool

Don't worry about top speed; swim smoothly with good, gliding turns and conserve strength



What is measured
Number of laps
completed



• 10-minute rest, water, clothing change (Transition 1)

• 20 minute ride on Lifecycle stationary bike

Most important event; "honking" (heavy resistance, cadence of 60 to 75) scores better than "spinning" (low resistance, fast cadence)

What is measured
Distance, cadence
(pedal turns per
minute), difficulty
(resistance setting)



• 5-minute rest, water, shoe change (Transition 2)

• 15-minute run on treadmill or indoor track

Treadmill lets you choose optimal resistance and pace; indoor track has more turns, more risk of injuries than outdoor if you run at top speed

What is measured
Distance or number
of laps

Source: Chicago Tri Club
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Sweden wins Eurovision Song Contest; Russia is booed

VIENNA (AP)—Sweden beat Russia to win the 60th Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday, in an event described by organizers as beyond politics but marred by boos for the Russian that were apparently prompted by the Ukraine conflict and the Kremlin's anti-gay policies.

Italy took third in Europe's iconic songfest, which this year carried the extra attraction of an entry by Australia. Many were hoping its candidate, Guy Sebastian, would take home the trophy, giving it a place in next year's contest. But Australia, given a wild-card entry this year due to its enthusiastic fan base, came fifth, not enough to secure a spot in 2016.

The race between Russian star Polina Gagarina and Sweden's Mans Zelmerlow went back and forth for most of the balloting as jurors from 40 countries voted along a worldwide audience submitting their preference by phone and app.

Zelmerlow finally triumphed with 365 points, with Gagarina receiving 303.



AP
Mans Zelmerlow representing Sweden celebrates after winning the final of the Eurovision Song Contest in Austria's capital Vienna, Sunday, May 24, 2015.

Sweden's sixth Eurovision victory came 41 years after Swedish group Abba's triumph with "Waterloo" launched their world career. Only Ireland has been more successful, with seven triumphs.

In his pop number "Heroes," the Swede chose to forego the

usual elaborate stage effects, relying instead on his strong singing and an innovative backdrop.

Cheers greeted his win. But the crowd's reaction to Gagarina struck a jarring note for those who believed in the contest's slogan, "Building Bridges."

Kiev did not send a candidate

this year. With many in the West viewing Moscow as the aggressor in Ukraine, the Russian's song, "A Million Voices," and its message of peace and understanding raised some eyebrows during the qualifiers leading up to Saturday's final.

As scattered boos rang out af-

ter points were given to her Saturday, one of the hosts reminded the audience that "music should stand over politics tonight."

With many Russians critical of last year's winner, the bearded cross-dressing Austrian diva Conchita Wurst, some of the negative reaction may also have been directed at Russia's generally repressive official climate against homosexuality.

Wurst rejected the boos, calling them "incomprehensible," and noted that Gagarina "cannot be blamed for the rules" in her home country.

Promoting homosexuality is against the law in Russia. Many there view Wurst as a threat to traditional family values, and a win by Gagarina would have brought the event to Moscow, a scenario viewed with alarm by the Orthodox Church.

Patriarch Kirill, in comments

to Russian news agencies, warned ahead of the event of "all those bearded female singers," declaring that acts such as Wurst's promote values "repulsive to our soul and culture."

The Austrian star took such comments in stride Saturday, saying, "I would have come" had Russia won.

About 200 million people watched on TV on Saturday as the 27 finalists, the most ever, battled it out musically. Approximately 10,000 people followed the contest live in Vienna's mammoth Stadthalle, with 25,000 others crowding the main public viewing venue in front of Vienna's City Hall.

Beyond Abba, other Eurovision winners who went on to pop fame are Celine Dion and Johnny Logan, who triumphed three times as a performer and songwriter.

The hosts of Saturday's spectacle announced that the event had been officially inducted into the Guinness Book of Records as the longest-running annual TV music competition.

Separating earthquake fact from fiction in 'San Andreas'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The San Andreas Fault awakens, unleashing back-to-back jolts that leave a trail of misery from Los Angeles to San Francisco. Skyscrapers crumble. Fires erupt. The letters of the Hollywood sign topple. Tsunami waves swamp the Golden Gate Bridge.

Hollywood's favorite geologic bad guy is back in "San Andreas"—a fantastical look at one of the world's real seismic threats.

The San Andreas has long been considered one of the most dangerous earthquake faults because of its length. At nearly 800 miles long, it cuts through California like a scar and is responsible for some of the largest shakers in state history.

In the film, opening this Friday, a previously unknown fault near the Hoover Dam in Nevada ruptures and jiggles the San Andreas. Southern California is rocked by a powerful magnitude-9.1 quake followed by an even stronger magnitude-9.6 in Northern California.

U.S. Geological Survey seismologist Susan Hough accompanied The Associated Press to an advance screening of the film. Despite the implausible plot, she said the San Andreas will indeed break again, and without warning.

"We are at some point going to face a big earthquake," she said.

JUST HOW BIG?

The San Andreas is notorious for producing big ones, but a magnitude-9 or larger is virtually impossible because the fault is not long or deep enough, Hough noted.

The most powerful temblors in recorded history have struck along offshore subduction zones where one massive tectonic plate dives beneath another. The 1960 magnitude-9.5 quake off Chile is the current world record holder.

The San Andreas has revealed its awesome power before. In 1906, a magnitude-7.8 reduced parts of San Francisco to fiery rubble. Nearly five decades earlier, a similar-sized quake rattled the southern end of the fault.

In 2008, the USGS led a team of 300 experts that wrote a script detailing what would happen if a magnitude-7.8 hit the southern San Andreas. They wanted to create a science-based crisis scenario that can be used for preparedness drills.

The lesson: It doesn't take a magnitude-9 or greater to wreak havoc. Researchers calculated a magnitude-7.8 would cause 1,800 deaths and 50,000 injuries. Hundreds of old brick buildings and concrete structures and a few high-rise steel buildings would collapse.

Computer models show the

San Andreas is capable of producing a magnitude-8.3 quake, but anything larger is dubious.

WILL THERE BE A WARNING?

In the film, Lawrence Hayes, a fictional seismologist at Caltech (a real university), notices spikes in "magnetic pulses" that light up California like a Christmas tree, heralding a monster quake.

Despite a century of research, earthquake prediction remains elusive. Scientists can't predict when a jolt is coming and are generally pessimistic about ever having that ability.

Every warning sign scrutinized—animal behavior, weather patterns, electromagnetic signals, atmospheric observations, levels of radon gas in soil or groundwater—has failed.

"We wish it were as simple as the movie portrays. It isn't. Researchers have scoured every imaginable signal trying to find reliable precursors, but nothing has panned out," Hough said.

The latest focus has been on creating early warning systems that give residents and businesses a few seconds heads up after a quake hits, but before strong shaking is felt.

Japan has the most advanced seismic alert system in the world while the U.S. is currently testing a prototype.



AP
This photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Dwayne Johnson, left, as Ray, and Carla Gugino as Emma, in a scene from the action thriller, "San Andreas."

A TSUNAMI IN SAN FRANCISCO?

Unlike the film, the San Andreas can't spawn tsunamis.

Most tsunamis are triggered by underwater quakes, but they can also be caused by landslides, volcanoes and even meteor impacts.

Giant tsunami waves are formed when the Earth's crust violently shifts, displacing huge amounts of seawater. The larger the magnitude, the more these waves can race across the ocean without losing energy.

The San Andreas is strike-slip fault, in which opposing blocks of rocks slide past each other horizontally. A big San Andreas quake can spark fires and other mayhem, but it can't displace water and flood San Francisco.

Hough said the movie got one aspect right: The tide suddenly ebbing out signals a tsu-

nami is coming.

More than 80—mostly small—tsunamis have been observed along California's coast in the past, triggered mainly by faraway quakes.

WILL THE EAST COAST FEEL IT?

In the movie, the scientist warned that shaking would be felt on the East Coast.

Even the largest possible San Andreas quake won't rattle the East Coast (Sorry New York).

While seismic waves from great quakes can make the Earth reverberate like a bell, the ringing can only be detected by sensitive instruments because it's so low.

Historical accounts show shaking from the 1906 San Andreas quake was barely felt in western Nevada and southern Oregon, Hough said.

DROP, COVER AND HOLD ON!

When the ground starts to shake, the seismologist played by Paul Giamatti makes the ideal public service announcement: "Drop, cover and hold on."

Since 2008, millions of people in California and elsewhere have participated in yearly disaster drills in which they practice diving under a table and learn other preparedness tips.

If you're outdoors when the ground moves, experts recommend bracing against a wall, similar to what search-and-rescue helicopter pilot Ray Gaines, played by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, told scared survivors in the movie.

"Having Paul Giamatti shouting, 'Drop, cover and hold on!'" and The Rock telling people to crouch against a wall if they can is one heck of a PSA," Hough said.

Palme d'Or up for grabs ahead of Cannes Film Festival finale

CANNES, France (AP)—A week and a half of French Riviera frenzy comes down to, as it always does, wild conjecture.

The 68th Cannes Film Festival concludes Sunday with the awarding of its top honor, the prestigious Palme d'Or, as well as a handful of other distinctions.

Few trophies in movies are more sought after than the Palme d'Or, but, unlike the Academy Awards, which whittles its field down to a few favorites over the course of months, Cannes winners are chosen clandestinely by a jury.

The mystery adds much suspense.

Throughout the festival, the jury, led by Joel and Ethan Coen, has quietly slipped in and out of theaters. Their deliberations are private, but that doesn't stop the world's media from endlessly debating the possible preferences of the Coens and fellow jurors Guillermo del Toro, Jake Gyllenhaal, Sienna Miller, Sophie Marceau, Xavier Dolan, Rokia Traore and Rossy de Palma.

The Cannes competition concluded Saturday with the stylish bloodbath of director Justin Kurzel's "Macbeth," starring Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard.

All of the 19 films in competition could feasibly walk away with the Palme d'Or, but a handful of perceived favorites have emerged.

One thing is for certain: For the first time in several years, the Palme d'Or winner won't be a three-hour art-house epic. In 2013, Steven Spielberg's jury chose the lesbian coming-of-age drama "Blue is the Warmest Color"; last year, Jane Campion's jury elected the glacial Turkish drama "Winter Sleep."

Here are four films that could land the Palme d'Or:

"SON OF SAUL"



AP
Michael Caine and Harvey Keitel pose for photographers during a photo call for the film Youth, at the 68th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

First-time filmmakers rarely make it into the competition, let alone win the Palme d'Or. The Camera d'Or, the Cannes award for best first feature, could ultimately be what director Laszlo Nemes' "Son of Saul" takes home, but no other film here found the universal acclaim that this Hungarian Holocaust drama did. Hauntingly gripping, it tracks a member of the Sonderkommando at Auschwitz who believes his son is among the gas chamber dead.

"YOUTH"

Italian director Paolo Sorrentino's latest was considered a slight step below his previous, Oscar-winning film "The Great Beauty." But his comic, melancholy tale of a retired composer (Michael Caine) reflecting on life and art at a Swiss spa was one of the liveliest entries of the festival. "Youth" is highlighted by the performances of two old vets: Caine and Harvey Keitel.

"THE ASSASSIN"

Director Hou Hsiao-Hsien's lat-

est was unquestionably the most beautiful film in Cannes, but was it the best? Many thought

so, lavishing praise on the Taiwanese director's lush, painterly imagery and his quiet inversion

of the martial arts genre. The 68-year-old Hou is widely regarded as one of today's great

Sensation of 'Dope' continues at Cannes Film Festival

CANNES, France (AP)—A year ago, writer-director Rick Famuyiwa was struggling to find financing for his film after studios in Hollywood passed on it. Now, he's sitting in a restaurant at Cannes riding the sensation of "Dope," his comic Los Angeles coming-of-age tale that sparked a bidding war this year at the Sundance Film Festival.

"It's pretty freaking awesome," Famuyiwa says, tipping back his white fedora. "Here we are less than a year later. It's been crazy from Sundance to here. I haven't quite gotten any perspective on it yet, but I'm enjoying the moment."

"Dope" premiered Friday in the Cannes Film Festival's Directors' Fortnight section with most of its young cast enthusiastically in tow. It's a large group, including star newcomer

Shameik Moore, Zoe Kravitz, ASAP Rocky, Tony Revolori and others. While many indies that make it to Cannes arrive with a small retinue, "Dope" is here in full force—and some cast members even paid their own way to come.

"Dope" is a buoyant, stereotype-busting high-school movie about a geek (Moore) in Inglewood, California, who's aiming to get into Harvard but is thrust into a rollicking adventure when drug dealers looking for a hiding place stuff his backpack full of Ecstasy.

The close bond between the cast comes partly out of the unlikeliness of their journey. "Dope" was made last summer in a rapid 24-day shoot around Los Angeles.

"We were making something we all believe in," says Famuyiwa.

But at first, it was difficult to find backers who also believed in it.

"When people first read the script, they were like: 'This is crazy. What's going on here?'" says Famuyiwa. "It was tough to get people to see it. I felt like once it got made, people would get it."

When "Dope," the fourth film by the 41-year-old Famuyiwa ("The Wood," "Our Family Wedding"), premiered at Sundance in January, it was the hit of the festival. It was snapped up by Open Road Films for a reported \$7 million and many of those who turned it down before filming were now beating down Famuyiwa's door.

"Most of the same people who were there at Sundance were people who had seen the script before and they didn't get it," says Famuyiwa.

"Dope" has some heavy-weight support: Pharrell Williams and Forest Whitaker are producers and Williams penned four songs for the movie. Open Road isn't giving it the small, platform release most films out of Sundance aspire to, but a wide opening on June 19 in the heart of the summer movie season opposite Pixar's "Inside Out."

"Dope" may be small in comparison to its opening weekend competition but it has something other films don't, says Famuyiwa.

"There's a generation that doesn't care if Tom Cruise is at the top of the movie," he says. "They want authenticity. They want an experience. They're not interested in you feeding that to them. They want it to feel like something that's truthful to them."

Young son longs for a father, but mom doesn't want a man

DEAR ABBY: My son's dad cheated on me for years, which resulted in a child with another woman. When I finally got the nerve to date and trust again, the new guy gave me herpes.

Now I find myself repulsed at the thought of sex, and I have no intention of putting myself in the position of having to disclose this information to a new partner. I am content to never have sex again.

The problem is, I have a young son who longs for a father and has asked on several occasions why I won't get a boyfriend. I feel it is unfair to him to miss out on something so important as having a father, but I can't stomach the thought of being with another man. What should I tell him?

DISGUSTED AND ALONE

DEAR DISGUSTED: Tell your son a version of the truth—with some judicious editing. Tell him that you were very much in love with his father, but that it didn't work out. Explain that finding the right partner can take a long time—it's the truth—and you're not sure when you will be able to provide a father for him. If he wants to know why, tell him your heart isn't ready.

While it's understandable that you would have trust issues after what you have experienced, not all men are cheaters, and a surprising number of people in the United States who have

herpes (HSV-2) do not know they have it—and that they can infect others. This may have been the case with the man from whom you caught it.

If you are reluctant to disclose this information because of embarrassment, there is a website that you might find interesting, H-Date.com. It offers a free dating service through which thousands of men and women meet one another. Many very nice, eligible people—people just like you—have herpes and live full, happy lives. Please check it out.

DEAR ABBY: I have been asked to be a bridesmaid in my best friend's wedding. I am more than delighted she wants me and honored to have been asked. However, this will be my third wedding as a bridesmaid.

I have been told, "Three times a bridesmaid, never a bride." Abby, is this true? If so, how can I gently let her know I can't be in her wedding for fear of never being married myself, because her wedding will be my third trip to the altar as a bridesmaid?

ENOUGH ALREADY

DEAR ENOUGH ALREADY: I don't know where that saying came from, but my advice is not to dwell on the negative. There is another old saying that could apply here. It's "three

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



times is the charm." In other words, if you agree to be your best friend's bridesmaid, it's possible you could meet your future husband at the wedding. Which one you choose to believe is up to you.

DEAR READERS: Along with the millions of Americans who are observing this Memorial Day, I would like to add my prayer of thanks to those men and women of our armed services who sacrificed their lives in service to our country. May they rest in peace.

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Curry, Golden State rout Houston 115-80 to take 3-0 lead

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP SPORTS WRITER



HOUSTON (AP)—Golden State coach Steve Kerr described Stephen Curry's performance Saturday night simply.

"Steph was Steph,"

Kerr said. Indeed.

The MVP did what he does best, using his extraordinary 3-point shooting to power a 40-point game and the Warriors made it look easy against Houston, beating the Rockets 115-80 to take a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

"He's had a brilliant season," Kerr said. "The shooting is hard to describe because I don't think we've ever seen anybody shoot the ball the way Steph does off the dribble, off the catch."

The Warriors won the first two games by just five points combined. There would be no such drama in this one, with Curry leading them to a 26-point advantage in the second quarter.

Now the baby-faced MVP has Golden State one victory away from its first trip to the NBA Finals since it won the 1975 title. Game 4 is Monday night in Houston.

"We understand it's a special moment, it's just we're wrapped up in our day to day grind of preparing for games and going out and exerting all the effort we need to make this story happen," Curry said. "So it's kind of hard to remove yourself from those emotions."

Curry was unstoppable, making seven 3-pointers to

break the NBA record for most 3s in the playoffs in a season with 64.

MVP runner-up James Harden finished with 17 points behind 10-of-11 free-throw shooting, but made just 3 of 16 shots as the Rockets dropped three straight for the first time all season.

Dwight Howard, who played despite a knee injury suffered in Game 1, had 14 points and 14 rebounds.

Houston rebounded from a 3-1 deficit in the conference semifinals to beat the Clippers and move on. No team in NBA history has won a series after falling behind 3-0.

"We just can't quit on each other," Howard said. "We've come too far. We've been through too many battles to just allow it to end like tonight ... we've just got to man up."

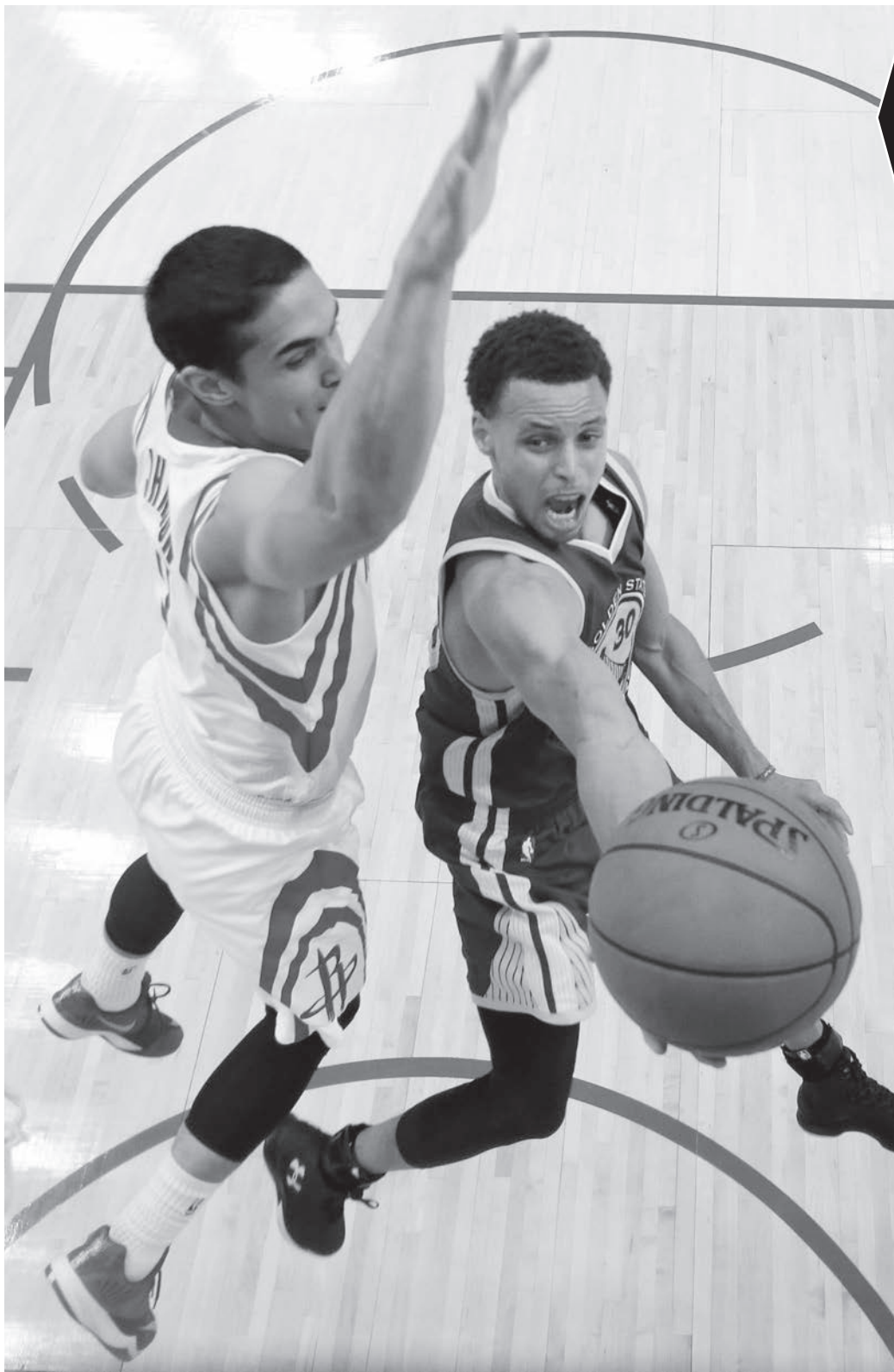
Draymond Green and Klay Thompson added 17 points apiece for the Warriors.

Curry had 37 points after three quarters and went to the bench for good with about 5 1/2 minutes remaining after his seventh 3-pointer made it 103-73. He also had seven rebounds and five assists.

After coach Kerr complained about turnovers in the last game, the Warriors had just one before halftime to help them run away with this one early.

"If we defend like crazy and take care of the ball, we're going to be in good shape," Kerr said.

The Rockets have rebounded from double-digit deficits in three of their eight wins this postseason, but this time they fell into a hole way too big to overcome. Especially when



AP
Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) shoots as Houston Rockets guard Nick Johnson, left, defends during the second half in Game 3 of the NBA basketball Western Conference finals Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Houston.

Harden's shots weren't falling.

The Warriors were in control of this one from the start and were up by 12 at the end of the first. But things got out of hand quickly when Curry heated up.

A pair of free throws by Harden cut the lead to nine points with about 6 minutes left in the quarter when Curry took over. He scored the next six points as part of a 16-5 run where he scored all but two of the Warriors points to push the lead to 54-34.

Curry broke the record for 3s in the playoffs on a long one from the top of the key that put Golden State up 49-32 about 4 1/2 minutes before halftime. Reggie Miller set the previous mark of 58 in 2000.

He did a little bit of everything in that span. There was the finger roll layup, a bank shot, seven free throws and even a pair of rebounds to get Golden State rolling.

Houston couldn't do anything right on either end of the court for most of the second quarter, and made just one field goal and missed six shots in the six minutes before halftime.

"I was surprised that we didn't come out with more," Houston coach Kevin McHale said. "I thought we would come out with a little more juice."

The Warriors led by 25 at halftime and Houston opened the third quarter strong, using a 13-6 spurt to get within 68-50. Thompson made a free throw after that before Curry took control once again, scoring the next five points, including a 3-pointer under heavy pressure, to push it to 75-50 midway through the third quarter.

Curry pumped his fist and screamed to no one in particular as several of his teammates raised three fingers in the air.

He wrapped up the third quarter in much the same way, scoring Golden State's last five points, capped by a 3-pointer to make it 92-61 entering the fourth quarter.

Howard was the only positive for the Rockets in the first half and he had 12 points and 10 rebounds. Harden made just one of eight shots in the first half, but had eight points after making all six of his free throws.

Golden State led 62-37 at halftime.

The Warriors led 30-18 at the end of the first quarter behind 10 points from Andrew Bogut.

SIDEBAR

Hawks' Kyle Korver out for the playoffs with sprained ankle

ATLANTA (AP)—Already facing a daunting task after losing the first two games at home in the Eastern Conference final, the Atlanta Hawks were dealt another major blow Saturday when 3-point specialist Kyle Korver was ruled out for the rest of the playoffs because of a severely sprained right ankle.

The guard was injured in Game 2 while scrambling for a loose ball. Cleveland's Matthew Dellavedova slammed into the side of Korver's ankle late in the third quarter of the Cavaliers' 94-82 victory Friday night.

X-rays at Philips Arena were negative, but a follow-up MRI and examination at Peachtree Orthopaedic Clinic confirmed a severe high-ankle sprain. Korver will be examined by a foot and ankle specialist to determine the best course of treatment, but there's no chance of him playing again this postseason, the team said.

"We will miss him," Atlanta

coach Mike Budenholzer said. "It's very, very difficult for him personally but more so for how much this team has done together, how much he's been a part of that. He's a huge part of our leadership, our fabric, our fiber."

Budenholzer hasn't decided who will start Game 3 at Cleveland on Sunday night. Kent Bazemore seems the most likely candidate, but he's also the top backup for small forward DeMarre Carroll, who is dealing with a sprained left knee. The other guards on the roster are little-used Shelvin Mack and John Jenkins.

"Bazemore is obviously someone we'll consider, who has the potential to start," the coach said. "DeMarre and Bazemore have played together. We usually sub Baze in for Kyle early in the first quarter, so they've played together a fair amount. They'll play together more now, whether Kent starts the game or not."

The 34-year-old Korver was selected for his first All-Star Game this season and for much of the year appeared on course to become the first player in NBA history to hit 90 percent of his free throws, 50 percent of his field goals and 50 percent of his 3-pointers.

But Korver slumped late in the season, missing out in all three categories. He continued to struggle in the playoffs as defenses clamped down, denying him from many open looks. Admittedly pressing to get off shots, he was hitting just 39 percent from the field and averaging 11.1 points.

The Hawks already were dealing with Carroll's ailing knee. He was injured in the closing minutes of the series opener and had to be helped off the court. While he was able to start Game 2 (and play more minutes than any other Hawks player), he clearly seemed to be favoring the knee as he scored only six points.

Budenholzer said Carroll was "still a little sore" but should definitely be able to go in the next game, a must-win for the Hawks if they're to have any realistic chance of coming back in the best-of-seven series. No NBA team has ever overcome a 0-3 deficit in the playoffs.

"I expect him to play. I expect him to be good," the coach said of Carroll. "I don't know that he has a big impact on how we decide who starts and who doesn't start (in Korver's place). But obviously, him being healthy and being able to play is pretty important because Kyle will not be able to play."

Atlanta won't get much sympathy from the Cavaliers.

Kevin Love is out for the playoffs with a shoulder injury and Kyrie Irving has lingering knee problems. The point guard didn't play in Game 2, but the Cavaliers still romped behind LeBron James' 30 points.

Cleveland hasn't said if Irving will be able to play Sunday.

Korver is the second key Atlanta player to sustain a season-ending injury. Forward Thabo Sefolosha was hurt during an arrest outside a New York City nightclub with a week to go in the regular season. Sefolosha maintains he did nothing wrong and blames police for causing his injuries.

"Injuries are such a big part of our league and a big part of the playoffs," Budenholzer said. "Everybody has to deal with them, and we're not any different. Of course, we'd like to have everyone healthy and be at full speed. That's the ideal. But you can't spend too much time or frustration thinking about it or concerned about it."

"We've got to get our minds right, get our minds focused. The guys who are healthy need to get ready to compete, ready to get after it, and go play a basketball game."

Astros turn triple play in 3-2 win over Tigers



DETROIT (AP)—Lance McCullers got Ian Kinsler to ground into a triple play in the fifth inning, and the Houston right-hander went on to earn his first career victory Saturday, leading the Astros over the Detroit Tigers 3-2.

Detroit led 2-1 in the fifth and had runners on first and second when Kinsler hit a grounder to third. Jonathan Villar stepped on the bag and threw to second, where Jose Altuve relayed the ball to first.

It was Houston's first triple play since 2004, and the Astros followed that up by scoring two runs in the sixth to go ahead.

McCullers (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits with six strikeouts over six innings in his second career start.

The Houston bullpen did not allow a baserunner. Luke Gregerson pitched the ninth for his 11th save in 12 chances.

Kyle Lobstein (3-5) gave up three runs in 5 2-3 innings.

Indians 2, Reds 1

In Cleveland, after Reds manager Bryan Price was ejected before the first pitch, Corey Kluber threw eight effective innings and led Cleveland over Cincinnati for its fifth straight win.

The Reds lost their season-high seventh in a row.

Price was tossed by umpire Jim Reynolds after the exchange of lineup cards. They got into a lengthy argument that carried on as the Indians took the field — the dispute likely stemmed from Friday night, when several Reds were upset with plate umpire Manny Gonzalez's strike zone.

Kluber (2-5) worked around constant trouble, but recorded his third strong start in a row. He allowed nine hits, struck out seven and didn't walk a batter.

Rangers 15, Yankees 4

In New Jersey, Shin-Soo Choo hit a go-ahead single and a three-run homer in a 10-run third inning that chased CC Sabathia from his shortest start in six years, and Texas routed reeling New York, which has lost nine of its last 10 games.

Shoo and Prince Fielder each had two hits in the third. Fielder finished with three RBIs and hit his third homer in a two games.

The Rangers, who rode a seven-run third Friday to a 10-9 win, won their fourth straight and sent the Yankees to their fifth loss in a row.

Garrett Jones, a right fielder and first baseman, relieved for the Yankees. In the first pitching appearance of his eight-season big league career, he worked around a walk and a hit batter to get the final two outs of the ninth.

Royals 3, Cardinals 2, 5 1/2 innings

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer,

Edinson Volquez pitched six solid innings and the Kansas City Royals beat the St. Louis Cardinals 3-2 Saturday night in a game called in the sixth inning because of rain.

The Royals improved to 28-14, the best record in the majors.

The game was stopped as Kansas City came to bat in the sixth, and was called after a wait of 70 minutes.

Volquez (4-3) gave up four hits and walked three. He gave up a run in the second, snapping a streak of 27 consecutive shutout innings by the Royals' rotation.

Marlins 1, Orioles 0, 13 innings

In Miami, Martin Prado hit a two-out, bases-loaded single in the 13th inning, and Miami won for the first time in Dan Jennings' six games as manager.

The Marlins broke an eight-game losing streak and improved to 1-8 on their homestand.

Five Miami relievers combined to pitch the final seven innings while allowing only two baserunners. Carter Capps (1-0) struck out six in three innings.

Orioles reliever Brian Matusz left the game in the 12th after the umpire crew chief inspected the left-hander's right forearm. The issue was raised by Jennings, and Orioles manager Buck Showalter didn't argue.

Dodgers 2, Padres 0

In Los Angeles, Mike Bolsinger retired his final 23 batters after giving up a leadoff single in the first inning and Joc Pederson homered, leading Los Angeles to a victory over punchless San Diego.

Bolsinger (3-0), who got a double play in the first to erase the Padres' only baserunner, struck out eight and walked none through eight innings. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his third save in three attempts since opening the season on the disabled list.

San Diego left fielder Justin Upton was ejected by plate umpire Clint Fagan in the eighth, one batter after he was called out on strikes.

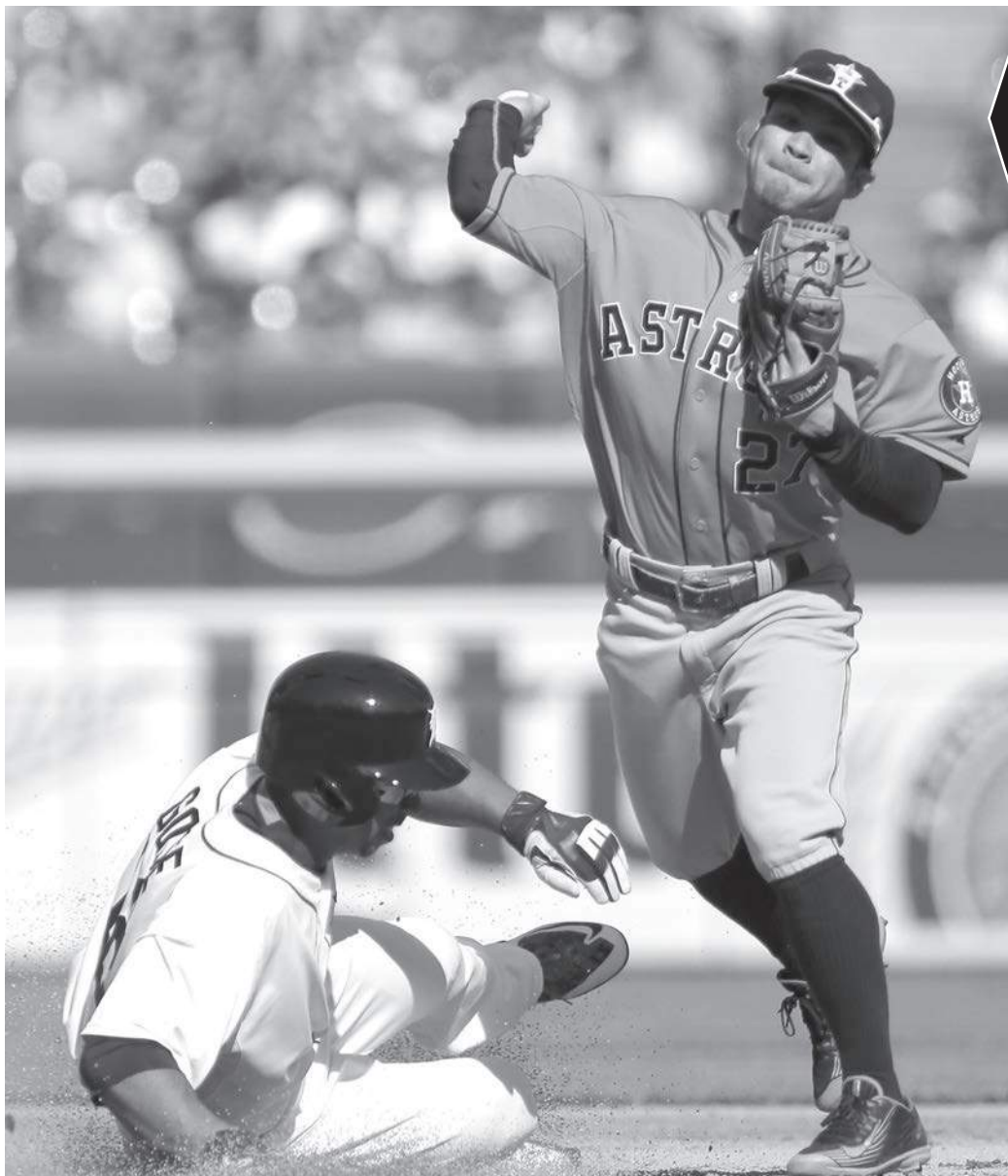
Giants 10, Rockies 8, 1st game Rockies 5, Giants 3, 2nd game

In Denver, Daniel Descalso homered and drove in three runs and Colorado ended San Francisco's eight-game winning streak, taking the second game of a rain-soaked doubleheader.

Descalso had a run-scoring groundout in the fourth and added a two-run homer in the sixth off spot starter Yusmeiro Petit (1-1).

Descalso's homer off a 79 mph changeup put Colorado ahead 4-2, marking the first time the Giants trailed by more than a run since May 9.

San Francisco, which won



AP
Houston Astros second baseman Jose Altuve (27) gets the force out on Detroit Tigers' Anthony Gose for the second out of a triple play during the fifth inning of a baseball game Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Detroit.

ings away from home.

Tom Wilhelmson pitched the seventh, Carson Smith worked the eighth and Fernando Rodney finished for his 12th save.

Twins 4, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Torii Hunter homered, Trevor May pitched seven strong innings and Minnesota defeated Chicago.

May (3-3) allowed three runs and six hits. He struck out nine and didn't allow a walk.

Hunter and Eduardo Nunez tagged White Sox starter Chris Sale (3-2) for solo home runs in the second inning. It was Hunter's seventh of the season and Nunez's first.

Twins closer Glen Perkins pitched a scoreless ninth for his major league-leading 16th save in 16 chances. Perkins struck out Tyler Flowers looking to end the game, leaving runners at first and second.

Sale was roughed up early but pitched eight innings. He gave up four runs, three earned, and five hits. He struck out 10 and allowed one walk.

Braves 3, Brewers 2, 11 innings

In Atlanta, Jace Peterson's single to left field drove in Alberto Callaspo from third base, lifting Atlanta to a win over Milwaukee in 11 innings.

Peterson hit the first pitch from Brandon Kintzler (0-1) toward the gap in left-center field. Left fielder Ryan Braun and center fielder Carlo Gomez didn't bother to field the ball as Callaspo scored and Braves players raced out of the dugout to swarm Peterson near second base.

With one out in the 11th, Kintzler walked Callaspo. Andrelton Simmons' sharply hit grounder hit third-base umpire Chad Fairchild and bounced into left field. Runners advanced to second and third on pinch-hitter Eric Young Jr.'s grounder to Kintzler.

Cubs 9, Diamondbacks 6

In Phoenix, Anthony Rizzo matched his career high with six RBIs and Chicago beat Arizona, ending the Diamondbacks' five-game winning streak.

Rizzo doubled in three runs in the Cubs' four-run fifth inning, then broke a 6-6 tie with a three-run homer into the Chase Field swimming pool area off Enrique Burgos (0-2) in the ninth.

Jason Motte (2-1) pitched two-thirds of an inning to get the win. Pedro Strop pitched a perfect ninth for his first save of the season.

the opener 10-8 behind Brandon Crawford's three RBIs, was seeking its first nine-game streak since winning 10 in a row in May 2004.

David Hale (1-0), acquired from Atlanta in the offseason but plagued by a left oblique strain in spring training, allowed three runs—two earned—over 6-plus innings in his Rockies debut.

John Axford pitched the ninth for his sixth save.

Chris Heston (4-3) picked up the win in the first game for the Giants and Santiago Casilla got the final out for his 12th save.

Red Sox 8, Angels 3

In Boston, Mike Napoli hit two homers and drove in three runs, Steven Wright pitched six-plus solid innings and Boston snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Los Angeles.

Xander Bogaerts had a two-run single and Mookie Betts two RBI singles for Boston, which had a shuffled batting order with Dustin Pedroia leading off and David Ortiz batting cleanup, moving from his customary third spot.

Kole Calhoun had a two-run double and Mike Trout, an RBI single for the Angels, who lost for only the fourth time in 11 games.

Wright (2-1) allowed two runs and four hits, striking two and walking just one.

C.J. Wilson (2-3) threw a season-high 119 pitches over six innings, giving up four runs on seven hits, fanning six and

walking three.

Phillies 8, Nationals 1

In Washington, Cole Hamels pitched eight sharp innings, Ryan Howard homered and Philadelphia roughed up Stephen Strasburg to end Washington's six-game winning streak.

Hamels (5-3) won his fourth straight start, and has compiled a 1.53 ERA over that stretch. He gave up one run and five hits, striking out five and walking one.

Strasburg (3-5) was chased after 3 2-3 innings. He allowed six runs and seven hits — over his last three starts, he has been tagged for 15 earned runs in 12 innings.

Howard finished with three hits and Maikel Franco had two hits, including a homer, for Philadelphia, which had lost two straight.

Pirates 8, Mets 2

In Pittsburgh, A.J. Burnett threw seven effective innings to win his fourth straight start and Pittsburgh handed New York ace Matt Harvey the worst loss of his career.

The anticipated showdown between two of the top pitchers in the National League never materialized. Burnett (4-1) allowed one run while striking out a season-high 10 without a walk.

Andrew McCutchen and Pedro Alvarez homered and each drove in two runs for the Pirates.

Harvey (5-2) lasted only four innings, the shortest outing of his career. He gave up a career-worst seven runs on six hits and

also threw two wild pitches, matching the number he had all of the 2013 season.

Athletics 5, Rays 0

In St. Petersburg, Florida Kendall Graveman gave up three hits over six innings in his return from the minors, Sam Fuld drove in two runs and Oakland beat Tampa Bay.

Graveman (2-2), recalled from Triple-A Nashville to make the start, struck out six and walked two to help the A's win for just the third time in 17 games.

Oakland broke through for four runs in the sixth. Xavier Cedeno replaced Rays starter Nathan Karns (3-2) with two outs and gave up Eric Sogard's RBI single. After Mark Canha walked to load the bases, three runs scored on Fuld's single that also included two Tampa Bay errors.

Fuld was credited with two RBIs on his hit that was misplayed by center fielder Kevin Kiermaier for the first error. Catcher Rene Rivera got the second error after dropping Kiermaier's throw that allowed the third run to score.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Kyle Seager homered, James Paxton earned his first road win of the season and Seattle beat Toronto.

Paxton (3-2) won his third straight start, allowing two runs and four hits in six innings. It was his first road win since last Sept. 2 at Oakland. He'd gone 0-3 with a 5.30 ERA in his previous six out-

Kevin Na regains sole lead at Colonial

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—The last time Kevin Na took the lead into the final round of a tournament, he faltered badly.

For Ian Poulter, though he laughs about it, there is that anonymous survey of PGA Tour players done by Sports Illustrated where he and Rickie Fowler tied as the most over-rated player on tour.

Na and Poulter both have a chance to change perceptions at Colonial.

With a birdie on the 17th hole Saturday, after the pair played from almost the same spot, Na regained the outright lead for a one-stroke advantage over Poulter going into the final round at a very damp Hogan’s Alley.

“When it comes to crunch time, you’ve got to trust your stroke and just stay in the moment,” Na said when asked about a chance for his second PGA Tour victory Sunday.

At The Players Championship three years ago, Na led after 54 holes before closing with a 76. He shared the second-round leading there this month before Fowler’s victory that Poulter eluded to this week.

“Rickie went out there and obviously made amends,” Poulter said, referring to the SI survey.

Na shot a 1-under 69 on Saturday, a round that included a couple of bogeys, to reach 11-under 199. Poulter had a 68.

Poulter made a 30-foot birdie putt on No. 7 for a share of the lead at 10 under. He was still part of the lead after a sand save at No. 9, where he blasted to 6 feet from a bunker to save par.

But he dropped out of a lead after starting the back nine with a four-putt double bogey from 16 feet at No. 10. A



AP
Kevin Na watch his tee shot on the sixth hole during the third round of the Colonial golf tournament Saturday, May 23, 2015, in Fort Worth, Texas.

3-footer on his third putt doing a U-turn around the cup without going in, though he got one of those strokes back with a 6-foot birdie putt at the 635-yard 11th.

Poulter got even again with a 32-foot birdie putt at No. 15, the same hole Na two-putted from 6 feet after his approach missed the green.

“Pleased with how I played, just a little mishap there on 10,” Poulter said. “It didn’t break, and then a few more putts it took to get in the hole.”

With their golf balls close to each other on the 17th green, Poulter had a 15-foot birdie try that slid by the hole. But Na then made his 14-footer after watching no break in Poulter’s putt.

“I trusted my read, a little outside right and it turned nicely into the hole,” Na said. “It was nice because I was

under par going into the last hole.”

With the leaders teeing off at 9:10 a.m., and playing in threesomes instead of the normal weekend twosomes, play was completed about 2 p.m. Saturday. That was about 3 1/2 hours earlier than usual for a weekend round for Colonial leaders.

PGA Tour officials moved up play because of the threat of severe afternoon storms. There were overcast and muggy conditions, with some light rain but no delays. Heavy rain was forecast overnight and into Sunday, with plans again for threesomes and early tee times off both Nos. 1 and 10 for the final round.

Charley Hoffman has third at 9 under after a 66. Chris

Kirk, a two-time PGA Tour winner last season, had a 65 for the best round of the day and was tied for fourth at 8 under with Brandt Snedeker (66).

Defending champion Adam Scott carded his second consecutive 66 since an opening 72. He was tied for 10th at 6 under in a group that included Jordan Spieth, the 21-year-old Masters champion from Dallas playing the first of consecutive weeks at home in North Texas.

Spieth, the first-round co-

leader after a 64, followed his second-round 73 with a 67.

George McNeill got off to a fast start, with four birdies on the first six holes, matching Na at 10 under after the second-round leader had already given back the stroke he earned with his 16-foot birdie putt at No. 3.

Na had a bogey at No. 5, the par 4 along the Trinity River that is the hardest hole on the course. Na hit a tee shot into the hazard and had to take a penalty drop.

McNeill, playing in the group directly ahead of Na, rolled in a 16-foot birdie putt at No. 5 and an 11-footer at No. 6 to get to 10 under. But McNeill hit his



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ing round of the Grade 5 event and stunned her favored foe with a convincing 6-2, 6-4 victory. Next up for the 17-year-old CNMI bet was Japan’s Makoto Ohara and that second round match was the toughest game the former played.

“I lost the first set so bad (2-6) and after that I was so nervous that I will not be able to come back. However, at the same time, I told myself not to give, keep calm, and stay focus,” said Lopez, who managed to steal the victory from her Japanese opponent with an impressive 6-1, 6-1 win in the last two sets and advanced to the quarterfinals.

In the Round of 8, the many-time CNMI Junior National Team member was paired against second-ranked Maria Dominique Ong of the Philippines and pulled off another up-

set, 6-1, 6-0.

“I warmed up early for the quarterfinals match, but still felt nervous. However, as the game went on, I got my confidence, especially after seeing my opponents committing several errors. I was very patient in that game and that paid off,” the 2012 NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female Student Athlete of the Year.

The victory against Ong moved Lopez into the semifinals where her streak ended by eventual runner-up and third-ranked Ayana Shimizu of Japan, 1-6, 0-6.

“Though I lost in the semifinals, I am still happy with the way I played in this tournament. I was consistent with my serves and hit several down the line backhand shots that helped me in those three victories,” said Lopez.

The CNMI player also competed in the doubles event with Palau’s Ayana Rengiil and they

made it to the quarterfinals after stunning the third-ranked duo of Woll and Yuen Yung Liu in a thrilling super tiebreaker, 4-6, 6-1, 10-8.

With her notable showings in the two events, Lopez received 15 ranking points in the doubles and 5 points in the singles.

She also got good words from CNMI national coach Jeff Race and Oceania Tennis Federation executive director Patrick O’Rourke.

“Mikayla is superb in this tournament. I have seen here play in the last three or four years and this is her best performance,” O’Rourke said in an interview.

“We are so proud of Mikayla’s achievement. It was unexpected, but she really proved she can play against the best in the draw. She really played well in this tournament. Her making it to the semifinals says something to our youth tennis program,” Race said.

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other Shimizu error—a strong return past the baseline—gave Naito the advantage. Naito served for the match point and Shimizu got it, but the latter’s second return off the former’s backhand from the left baseline slammed into the net, sealing the unranked player’s championship win.

“I was a bit lucky that my opponent made a lot of errors,” said Naito through interpreter and CNMI player Malika Miyawaki. “It was a very tough game and I just continued to be aggressive, trying to force her to commit mistakes.”

The Niigata native, who also

came back from a 4-5 deficit after giving up two straight games to Shimizu, barged into the finals after notching a 6-2, 6-3 win over doubles partner Funa Kozaki in the upper bracket semifinals last Saturday. Shimizu also took the short route to the title tiff, sweeping the CNMI’s Mikayla Lopez in the other Finals Four pairing last Saturday, 6-1, 6-0.

Meanwhile, the seventh-ranked Kawakami was crowned champion first as he outclassed compatriot and the third-seeded Tomohiro Masabayashi, 6-1, 6-3, on Court 2.

The 14-year-old Kawakami sealed the victory with a powerful crosscourt return to the left backcourt, as he anticipated the move of Masabayashi, who ap-

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Micro Games.

She equaled her record-breaking time in the women’s 200m run in the OAA championship when she clocked 26.29 seconds in the preliminaries. Her time was good only for 12th place.

Her time of 26.29 broke the

record of former Team CNMI sprinter Yvonne Bennett (26.41, 2010 in Palau) in the 200m run event last year. She also finished 12th in the qualifying round of the women’s 100m sprint with 12.71 seconds.

Despite all of this, Abrams added that competing against the best in the region motivated her to train harder so she could perform better. “You compete

drive at No. 12 into the rough and wound up with the first of three bogeys in five holes. He was 7 under after a 69.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	24	20	.545	—
New York	22	21	.512	1 1/2
Baltimore	19	21	.475	3
Boston	20	23	.465	3 1/2
Toronto	19	26	.422	5 1/2

Central Division

Kansas City	28	14	.667	—
Detroit	26	18	.591	3
Minnesota	24	18	.571	4
Chicago	19	21	.475	8
Cleveland	19	23	.452	9

West Division

Houston	28	16	.636	—
Los Angeles	22	21	.512	5 1/2
Seattle	20	22	.476	7
Texas	20	23	.465	7 1/2
Oakland	15	30	.333	13 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	25	18	.581	—
New York	24	20	.545	1 1/2
Atlanta	21	21	.500	3 1/2
Philadelphia	19	26	.422	7
Miami	17	27	.386	8 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	27	16	.628	—
Chicago	24	18	.571	2 1/2
Pittsburgh	20	22	.476	6 1/2
Cincinnati	18	24	.429	8 1/2
Milwaukee	16	28	.364	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	26	16	.619	—
San Francisco	25	19	.5682	
Arizona	20	22	.476	6
San Diego	20	24	.455	7
Colorado	16	25	.390	9 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

proached the net (right service box side) after returning the former’s backhand slice.

“Though I beat him in two sets, it was not easy. Every game here was tough and I have to be prepared and not feel over confident,” the Tokyo native said after completing the nearly one hour and a half finale. “This is a good win for me because I may be able to compete in a higher level.”

Kawakami forced an all-Japan finale in the boys singles event after eliminating the fourth-ranked Shaheed Alam of Singapore in the lower bracket semifinals last Saturday, 6-1, 6-3. Masabayashi, on the other hand, ousted Kazuki Shimizu in the semis match at the bottom half of the draw, 6-4, 6-0.

against people who have been training for so much longer than you and athletes who have been training more intensely.”

“That motivated me to push myself. I still have a long way to go, but I know I can keep getting better. It will take a lot of time and effort to reach my goals,” added Abrams, who will not compete in the Pacific Games set this July in Port Moresby.

MHS sweeps its way to softball crown

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

Maria Dalusong and Sabrina Pangelinan had a homerun each to help Marianas High School complete a 23-10 crushing of Mt. Carmel School in the finals of the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization girls softball last Friday at the Miguel Basa Pangelinan ballfield.

MHS completed an undefeated season, winning their 10th straight game to clinch a third consecutive MISO girls' softball crown.

The Lady Dolphins crushed the Saipan Southern High School Lady Manta Rays, 26-10, in the semifinals, while the MCS Lady Knights scored a come-from-behind 9-6 win over the Kagman High School Lady Ayuyus.

Dalusong, with no outs and MHS enjoying a 10-6 lead, blasted a bases-clearing inside-the-park homer to highlight the Lady Dolphins' six-run third-inning barrage.

Franica Masga had a lead off walk, Levani Shiro followed with a single, and Julie Ann Reyes walked to load up the bases setting up Dalusong's

round-tripper.

Dalusong went 3-for-5 with a pair of singles, four runs, and had four RBIs, while Pangelinan, who also scored four times, had a solo shot in the second inning.

Jennifer Dela Cruz was tagged with eight earned runs on six hits while striking out four batters and walking four more.

She quickly retired Karleen Reyes after forcing the Mt. Carmel infielder to pop out, which was caught by third baseman Julie Ann Reyes for the first out.

Dela Cruz then struck out Jan Travilla swinging, then ended the game when Quina Flores flied out to left fielder Jodeen Frederick.

Dela Cruz also threw seven wild pitches and hit six batters by pitch where MCS scored twice in a bases-loaded sixth inning.

Mt. Carmel also committed 14 errors in the game, which also failed to help their cause.

MHS defeated Saipan Southern High School in 2012, 17-16, to win its first softball crown and duplicated the feat against the Lady Mantas, 9-7, last year. SSSH was the inaugural champion in 2008 and was the champion until 2010.



JON PEREZ

The Marianas High School softball team celebrates after clinching a third straight softball crown in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization. It was also MHS' fifth MISO crown this season after also topping boys and girls basketball, girls volleyball, and co-ed tennis.

Sign up starts for Labor Day softball tourney



Interested teams that want to join this year's Labor Day Softball Tournament are being advised to start organizing themselves.

Baseball manager Froilan M. Camacho is organizing the tournament, which is set during the Labor Day weekend from Sept. 4 to 6.

Venue will be announced at a latter date, but the weekend tournament would possibly be held at the Capital Hill ballfield.

Slots are reserved only for the first 12 men's teams and first six women's squads that will sign up.

All teams that will join are required to pay a 50 percent deposit of the \$150 registration fee in order to secure your.

There are no more refunds once the 50 percent deposit is paid. Teams can start turning in their deposits on May 26 and the deadline is on July 31.

The weekend tournament will follow a double-elimination round format where official rules of the Amateur Softball Association of America will be followed.

For more information, call Camacho at 6642814 or email him at camacho_775@hotmail.com. (Jon Perez)

SIDEBAR

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

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REPORTER

Saipan International School dominated Marianas High School in the finals, 5-1, to top the 2014-2015 MISO Boys High School Soccer League.

Jehn Joyner powered the Geckos to the easy title win last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, as he made a hat-trick, which came in succession. He drilled back-to-back goals in the 31st and 41st minute to lift SIS to a 3-1 half-time edge. Jun Sik Kim scored the other goal for the Geckos with his conversion in the seventh minute, while Ryan Relucio knocked in the lone goal for MHS in the 34th.

Joyner capped his strong showing in the finals with a header in the 62nd minute, while Nam Ki Kim closed out for SIS with a cross against MHS goalie Christopher Anino 11 minutes later.

The championship victory was a good send-off for Joyner, Nam Ki Kim, Chris Park, William Fong, Andrew Johnson, and Bob Kim, who attended their graduation rites a few hours after beating the Dolphins in the finale.

"It's a bitter-sweet win for me. Sweet because I was able to help the team win the championship in my last year and

managed to play a very good game. Bitter because I have to go and will not be able to play with them and for the school," Joyner said in an interview after the match.

"I have great teammates and coaches and I wish them the best next season," said Joyner, who got his second MISO soccer championship with the Geckos after having his first during his freshman year.

SIS rules MISO soccer league

Joining the six SIS seniors on the champion team are Kwan Ho Kim, Jun Young Kim, Dong Gu Hyon, Dong Hee Im, Kennedy Izuka, Chanwoo Jeong, WooJin Bark, Myung Jae Cho, Hyeon Chang Im, Timothy Park, Hyun Jun Chung, and Chang Jun Sung. Steve Beyer coached the Geckos, who came into the finals with a 2-1-1 win-draw-loss record.

"It was a pleasure coaching the SIS soccer team. Even with the short season I saw much improvement, especially with our team chemistry. We have a lot of talented players and watching how they came together, listened, and communicated with each other was what made this victory possible," said Beyer, who called the shots for SIS for the second straight season.

"We are sad to see six of our starters graduate this year, but I am also excited with the talent we have in our returning players. A big thank you to MISO for putting this together and to the great competition we had from all the other teams," he added.

Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School joined SIS and MHS in this season's soccer league.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan International School's Nam Ki Kim is ahead of three Marianas High School defenders during the second half of their title game in the 2014-2015 MISO Boys High School Soccer League last Friday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



Curry, Golden State rout Houston 115-80 to take 3-0 lead

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MHS sweeps its way to softball crown

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Upsets in ITF Juniors finale



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Japan's Yuki Naito returns to compatriot Ayano Shimizu during their title game in the girls singles event of the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Upsets marked the finals of the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships as Japan's Yuki Naito and Rimpei Kawakami swept their favored foes yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The unranked Naito took only two sets to clinch the girls singles championship crown against compatriot and No. 3 seed Ayano Shimizu, 6-3, 7-5, but both victories were hard earned ones. In fact, Naito had to fight back in the extended second set to close out the finale on Court 1 after about



two hours. The 14-year-old champion was down, 0-40, in the 12th game, but recovered as Shimizu hit some shots that went wide. The game then went to four deuces with the last one recorded as Shimizu's return hit the net. An-

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'No way to go but improve'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Veteran sprinters Beouch Ogu-moro Ngirchongor and Rachel Dominique Abrams are hoping to achieve their own personal goals when they resume training for future athletics competitions.

Ngirchongor and Adams were part of the six-member CNMI athletics team that competed in the 2015 Oceania Athletics Association Area Championships early this month at Barlow Park

in Cairns, Australia.

Zarinae Sapong, Evan Miller, Gerald Castillo, and Donavin Ada, who won bronze in boys' javelin throw, were the other Team CNMI members.

Ngirchongor, who won the 400m run and 400m hurdles gold in last year's Pohnpei Micronesians Games, gave himself a five as his rating for his OAA performance.

"This Australian trip was a

big challenge and at the same time a motivation for me to train harder and become smarter, so I could become stronger and quicker in the next competition," said Ngirchongor.

Ngirchongor, who is now preparing for this year's Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea, added that he and his coaches would focus more with his endurance, speed, and power to further improve his perfor-



mance in the hurdles.

He submitted a time of 62.05 in the preliminary round of the 400m hurdles to clinch a finals spot where he finished eighth overall (62.72). He failed to qualify in the 400m run finals after ending up 10th (54.55).

"Running against the top runners across the Pacific was tiring but fun. The competition level in the OAA is much tougher than the Micro Games. It is one of the biggest challenges that I've been into in my second year in the Oceania games," he said.

For Abrams, she still has a long way to go before she can reach the same level of some of the athletes that competed in the OAA championships.

"I did alright. I went out there and did my best. But I hope to get better and continue to set new personal goals," said Abrams, who bagged three gold medals in last year's Pohnpei

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JON PEREZ

Rachel Abrams, right, waits for instructions from athletics coach Elias Rangamar, left, while training recently with Gerald Castillo, second left, and Zarinae Sapong at the Oleai track and field facility.

SIDEBAR

Lopez exceeded expectations

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mikayla Lopez's campaign in ITF Juniors Circuit had a fitting ending as she made it all the way to the semifinals of the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships.

"I believe this was my last year of playing in ITF Juniors and I am very happy that I was able to win not only one but three games and get into the semifinals," said Lopez, who

was the first CNMI player to reach the semifinals of a singles event in the ITF Juniors.

"I was not expecting to go that far. I had a modest goal coming into the tournament and that was to win at least one match," the incoming Marianas High School senior said.

Lopez was pitted against six-ranked Sabrina Mary Woll of Hong Kong in the open-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Mikayla Lopez serves during one of her singles games in the 2015 IT&E Northern Marianas Junior Championships last week at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.